MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

VOLUME 27

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Nos. 279-288
& ANNUAL No. 20

TOM DEFALCO, CHRISTOPHER PRIEST,
RON FRENZ & ALAN KUPPERBERG

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 27

COLLECTING

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN NOS. 279-288

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TOM DEFALCO • CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

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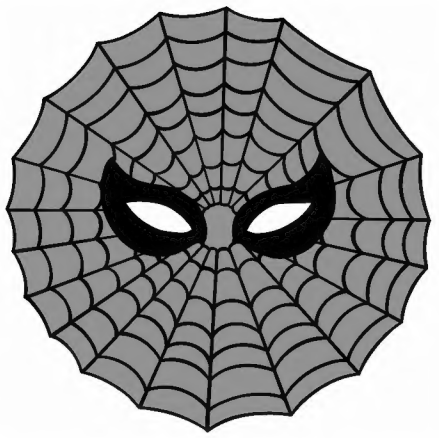

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Cory Sedlmeier

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Nickel DesignWorks

VP Production & Special Projects
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VP Print & Digital Publishing
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Digital Production
Meghan O'Leary
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CREDITS

THE
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
NOS. 279-288 & ANNUAL NO. 20

Writers: **Tom DeFalco** (Nos. 279-285)
Christopher Priest (Nos. 285-288, *Annual* No. 20)
Fred Schiller (*Annual* No. 20)

Pencilers/Layouts: **Ron Frenz** (Nos. 280-281, 283-284)
Alan Kupperberg (Nos. 285-286, 288)
Rick Leonardi (Nos. 279, 282)
Erik Larsen (No. 287)
Mark Beachum (*Annual* No. 20)

Inkers/Finishers: Vince Colletta (No. 279)
Brett Breeding (Nos. 280-281)
Bob Layton (Nos. 282-283)
Josef Rubinstein (No. 284)
Jim Fern (Nos. 285-286, 288)
Art Nichols (Nos. 286-287)
Bob Wiacek (*Annual* No. 20)

Letterers: Joe Rosen (Nos. 279-283)
Rick Parker (Nos. 284-288)
Jim Novak (*Annual* No. 20)

Colorists: Bob Sharen (Nos. 279, 283-286, *Annual* No. 20)
Paul Becton (No. 280)
Nel Yomtov (Nos. 281-282)
Julianna Ferriter (No. 287)
George Roussos (No. 288)

Editors: Christopher Priest (Nos. 279-283, *Annual* No. 20)
Jim Salicrup (Nos. 284-288)

Art & Color Restoration: All Thumbs Creative (Nos. 279-288, *Annual* No. 20)

Special Thanks: Scott Dunbier & Michael Kelleher

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
CONTENTS

"Gang Related" Introduction by Christopher Priest ..... *vi*

The Amazing Spider-Man #279, August 1986
"Savage Is the Sable!" 1

The Amazing Spider-Man #280, September 1986
"The Sinister Syndicate!" 23

The Amazing Spider-Man #281, October 1986
"When Warriors Clash--!" 46

The Amazing Spider-Man #282, November 1986
"The Fury of X-Factor!" 69

The Amazing Spider-Man Annual #20, 1986
"Man of the Year" 92

The Amazing Spider-Man #283, December 1986
"With Foes Like These..." 132

The Amazing Spider-Man #284, January 1987
"...And Who Shall Stand Against Them...?" 156

The Amazing Spider-Man #285, February 1987
"The Arranger Must Die!" 179

The Amazing Spider-Man #286, March 1987
"Thy Father's Son!" 202

The Amazing Spider-Man #287, April 1987
"...And There Shall Be a Reckoning" 225

The Amazing Spider-Man #288, May 1987
"Gang War Rages On!" 248

GANG RELATED
BY CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

So, I marched into Marvel editor-in-chief Jim Shooter's office.
"Spider-Man will get married," I loudly proclaimed, "over my dead body."

Less than a month later, I was gone.

"Gang War" broke out in *The Amazing Spider-Man* #284. By the time the dust settled, several Marvel staffers were sitting in different chairs. The story, about a power vacuum caused by the Kingpin's apparent defeat at Daredevil's hands, echoed events at the office with life now imitating art. Some of the chair-shuffling can be linked to a succession of events: a wedding, a funeral, a bomb threat and the aborted launch of a fourth Spider-Man title.

The wedding: In response to a fan question at the July 1986 Chicago Comicon, Stan Lee announced that Peter Parker would be marrying longtime gal pal Mary Jane Watson in the Spider-Man newspaper comic strip. We're still a volume away from the landmark *ASM Annual* #21 where that event occurs in Marvel's comic books, but Peter Parker's upcoming nuptials played a major role in this volume's storylines. I, of course, assumed the wedding was just perhaps being misinterpreted in a "Grey Hulk" sort of way. Marvel was, after all, the House of Pranks in those days, so I just blew it off.

When I discovered this was, in fact, the plan, I was vehemently against it. I thought (and still think) married super heroes are a bad idea, with married Spider-Man being the worst idea of all. Spidey is supposed to be "The Hero Who Could Be You," a character infinitely identifiable to the reader.

So, I stormed into Jim Shooter's office and made my proclamation: Under no circumstances would I permit the wedding to occur. This brilliant move capped a much longer list of even more brain-dead moves that likely got the paperwork drawn up on my being Spider editor no more.

The funeral: I'm sworn to secrecy by *Masterworks* editor Cory Sedlmeier, who doesn't want me to reveal who gets it, but suffice to say that a character's throat was slit in *Spider-Man vs. Wolverine* #1, leading to speculation that I (the editor of *The Amazing Spider-Man* and writer of the story featuring this death) had backdoored *ASM* writer Tom DeFalco and former Spider writer Roger Stern by murdering the Hobgoblin in an unrelated project.

The bomb threat: I returned from lunch one day in early August 1986 to find not only the entire Marvel staff standing outside our 387 Park Avenue South office building, but the entirety of the *building's* occupants—of all companies headquartered there—were in the street. And most were scowling at me.

An aspect of a *Web of Spider-Man* story I edited that offended a group of people who allegedly phoned in a bomb threat. I, and most people I talked to, didn't believe the threat was real (it wasn't), but the NYPD Bomb Squad kicked us out nonetheless while they searched the building. Because the alleged bomber quoted a Spider-Man story, I was getting the skunk eye from everyone on the street.

These events were followed by my losing *Amazing Spider-Man* inker and good bud Josef Rubinstein (Joe was simply worn out by the difficult schedule on the book), pressure from Marvel's editorial scheduler and, ultimately, my being fussed at by Shooter over the book's tardiness.

Amazing's writer Tom DeFalco was Shooter's second in command, Marvel's executive editor. DeFalco's ascension from Spider-Man writer and occasional line editor to Marvel's executive editor complicated our work together. I mean, first of all, I was editing my boss, which was a seriously brain-dead idea to begin with, while being fussed at by my *boss's boss*.

Tom was the soul of patient cooperation, maybe the easiest writer I've ever worked with, even when he thought I was wrong. Even when I actually *was* wrong. But Tom was also a family man who was taking on an ever-increasing management load as Shooter continued to expand Marvel's horizons. Tom was supervising all of the editors and, in those days, also helping restructure Marvel's European publishing arm Marvel U.K., among other things. This made writing *The Amazing Spider-Man* monthly a heavier lift than it would or should have been. My sense of things was Shooter saw Tom's freelance writing as a secondary consideration. If Tom couldn't swing a monthly book on top of the stuff constantly being added to his workload, that was my fault and my problem.

Full disclosure: I ran into Tom a few months before writing this, and he jovially rebutted much of what I am sharing here, so my mileage apparently may vary.

The fourth Spider-Man title: So, genius that I was, I proposed a solution to Shooter in late August 1986. One that addressed the directive to remove Ron and Tom from *Amazing* without removing them from Spider-Man: *Sensational Spider-Man*, a double-sized book published quarterly, free of monthly deadline pressure. Armed with Jim's blessing, I brought the solution to Tom…and, oh, Jesus why did I do that?

Suffice to say that idea didn't go over well and the very next day a perplexed Shooter, having gotten an earful from Tom, was in my office. The day after, Jim Salicrup was in my chair and I was a Spider-Man *writer* rather than the Spider-Man *editor*.

Eight months later, Tom was in Shooter's chair, promoted to Marvel editor-in-chief, and on his way to great success as one of the most productive and efficient EIC's in the company's history. Tom presided over exponential growth during the speculator craze, which included the rise of the pre-Image Comics X-Men franchise and smartly landing DC Comics castoff Todd McFarlane for an explosive and unmatched run on "adjectiveless" *Spider-Man*, the fourth Spider-title having finally launched.

During the era the material in this *Marvel Masterworks* collection was created, there was a seasoned writer, artist, colorist or letterer behind nearly every office door at Marvel. People who had perfected their craft through years in the trenches living with the ever-present specter of Marvel's Dreaded Deadline Doom™. Having themselves lived the life of a freelancer, Marvel editors garnered a specific empathy for their creative talent which made the place so much more like a mom-and-pop corner store than an intimidating corporate headquarters.

The absorption of Marvel and other publishers into major media corporations brought with it a corporate separation of church and state, meaning staffers could no longer write or draw for the company. I presume the point of this policy was to comply with best standards of business integrity.

This policy forces experienced veteran comics professionals, like DeFalco for example, to choose between being an administrator or their first love—being a creator. Whether this change has lost the industry more than it has gained is an interesting debate, but the undeniable collateral damage of this policy shift was that the familial atmosphere of joyful chaos and unmatched creative energy that marked the pre-speculator boom days of '80s Marvel ended. The industry suffered major attrition of seasoned pros to be replaced by fans-turned-administrators.

The comics industry as a whole benefitted from many reforms instituted by Jim Shooter who was, in those days, a guy who wanted to make comics better and have them come out on time; two diametrically opposed goals. This made Jim a kind of crazy man and Marvel an editorial pressure cooker. There was no Internet. There was no digital anything. There was slow-moving paper plodding from point "A" to point "B." There were frantic suicide runs to FedEx and, if work was not up to standards, there were enormous cost overruns for re-dos and missed ship dates.

The Marvel editor-in-chief chair has historically been a Venus flytrap of career ambition, typically the last stop of a brilliant career, with most occupants ultimately fleeing if not catapulted from a thankless job

and one not for the faint of heart. Despite historic gains for creator rights, higher page rates and a royalty-style incentive program which paid performance-based dividends even to editorial staff, Shooter was still routinely clotheslined by the inescapable gravity of having to be Dad.

Dad was the teacher, the drill sergeant, the Yoda, the vortex, the target of all slings and arrows. Dad was a harsh taskmaster almost impossible to please. Dad was also the guy you ran to, door closed, when you were in trouble. Shooter routinely went into his own pocket and, unreimbursed, helped, bailed out, subsidized or otherwise went out of his way to invest in and be a friend to Marvel family, this writer included.

To be fair, it really would not have mattered all that much whose butt was in the big chair, the target was the chair itself. Jim's far-ranging ambition trended toward creative disruption, behavior I chaotically mimicked as we editors strove to kick the ball through Jim's constantly moving goal posts.

Now, let's wind things back to where this volume begins: *Amazing Spider-Man* #279, with guest art by the wonderful Rick Leonardi and the return of the wonderful Silver Sable, was part of my "Missing in Action" "stunt month" wherein Spider-Man has seemingly vanished. The *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Spectacular* and *Web* covers all bore a "Where Is Spider-Man?" corner graphic, adding to the mystery, and Spider-Man appearances were banned throughout the line for a month.

I don't actually remember why I thought this was a good idea. And, to answer the question, "Where Is Spider-Man?" Well, he was over there, in *The Vision and The Scarlet Witch* #11, the only book published that month to break the Spider-embargo.

ASM #280-281's "The Sinister Syndicate" has Spidey finally getting a real job, hired by Sable to corral a bunch of goofy-looking knuckleheads dressed in costumes that, unlike Spidey's black threads, have not aged well.

ASM #282's "The Fury of X-Factor" was denied the guaranteed-sales-bump of an X-Factor appearance because, in those pre-variant cover days, we were unable to feature the newly reteamed original X-Men on the cover. The issue shipped during Marvel's 25th Anniversary celebration month, wherein all Marvel books used a fixed cover template, designed and drawn by John Romita, with a single character headshot drawn by another artist. Penciler Rick Leonardi returned for this one, which includes a cameo by Tom DeFalco (on page 88, panel 2.)

The Amazing Spider-Man Annual #20: I bought "Man of The Year," featuring the Tom DeFalco-created Iron Man of 2020 (how ironic is that?), from a writer named Fred Schiller. It was a great story but Fred was having difficulty with the comics format, so I developed it into a comics plot and gave it to the incredibly talented but not particularly fast artist Mark Beachum. I assigned it to Mark as an unscheduled inventory issue and told him, "Here, take this. If I ever see you again, I'll give you another one." Much to my surprise, Mark actually came back, months later, with the completed story in his portfolio case. I gave the book to inker Bob Wiacek, who did a simply amazing job. I wrote the dialogue for free but put Shooter's pseudonym, "Ken McDonald," on the book to partially reimburse him for the acquisition of Marvel editorial's first computer (a Macintosh 512k).

Since the writing of *ASM* #283's "With Foes Like These…!" cover text doesn't read much like me, I want to say that Ron, either with Tom's help or on his own, wrote it in the classic Stan Lee tone. Flash Thompson's prison escape in "Foes...!" stirs the "Who Is the Hobgoblin?" pot, and ends in a pretty absurd stalemate with the Absorbing Man lifting a passenger jet by its fuselage. (Impossible to do for any number of reasons: he's not tall enough, a plane's fuselage is too weak to support its weight). Gosh, I wish this book had an editor…

Oddly enough, despite being…let's say…extremely unhappy about losing *The Amazing Spider-Man*, Tom nonetheless requested for me to script (or at least tolerated my writing) the dialogue and captions for

the "Gang War" story arc (#284-288), which was already in the works when the *Sensational Spider-Man* debacle went down.

"Gang War" began with Tom and Ron's aspiration to paint a broad canvas with the complex politics of the criminal networks they and previous writer Roger Stern had long labored to establish. The pivotal center of this network involved the mystery of the identity of two masked characters, the enigmatic Rose and, more notably, the Rose's alleged hired hand the Hobgoblin.

In the drumbeat toward "Gang War," Tom and Ron had layered the melodrama on with a trowel, casting suspicion on nearly every character in the cast and establishing complex rivalries and competing agendas you kind of needed a scorecard or database to accurately track. "War" would, presumably, become the culmination of years of hard work and outright scheming, including secrets kept from their editor and even from Tom himself, who scrupulously checked in with Sterno (Roger Stern)—the only writer who actually knew who was beneath the Hobgoblin's mask—to make sure he wasn't accidentally tripping over any of Roger's extremely well-placed footfalls.

So, of course, it all got pretty fouled up.

Nearly 40 years later, I am still harangued at conventions by longtime fans annoyed over how I screwed up the Hobgoblin reveal, an event which transpired at least six months after I left Marvel staff. I never knew who the Hobgoblin was but I was certain who he was *not*, and he was not the character whom I bumped off in 1987's *Spider-Man vs. Wolverine* #1. But the thing about turmoil and upheaval is it tends to be an irrational cousin with selective memory who always vomits all over the floor.

I can't say for sure why, but the "Gang War" story arc seems to be a fan favorite as these issues appear on my table at most every convention. I'm pretty sure I was doing my best to match Tom's faux-Stan Lee tone while inker Brett Breeding came aboard to do finished pencils over Ron's layouts and Rubinstein returned to ink over Brett.

The storyline hasn't aged gracefully. Lots of unintentional humor courtesy of stereotypical gangster types, the Rose's mask, Hammerhead ('nuff said) and laughably bald "I am the Hobgoblin" dog whistles intended to ratchet up the mystery of the villain's true identity.

By *ASM* #286, "Gang War" was left in my hands for solo scripting, and I ran it right off a cliff, culminating in a ridiculous fight between Spidey and Daredevil wearing a Kingpin mask *over his own mask,* and a huge, unwieldy fat suit. (WTH was I *thinking?!)* This stuff is hilarious in a so-bad-it's-funny sense, but it didn't serve Tom's story well.

This volume concludes with a bonus story that rounded out an issue of *Marvel Tales* around the time these stories were produced, the wonderful "Clobberin' Time" by Sholly Fisch and penciled by my old pal James Fry. Mark McKenna, Phil Felix, Howard Mackie and Maddie Blaustein, distant (and some departed) friends, round out its Old Home Week feel for me in a breezy antithesis of my knotted "Gang War" denouement. Page 275 is a classic.

And that's a brief summary of a much more complicated year of major change at Mighty Marvel, all of which set the stage for the biggest leap forward in Spider-Man history, which is just around the corner in the next *ASM Masterworks* volume!

Christopher Priest
(Formerly James Owsley)
Winter 2025

P.S. Remember that wedding I adamantly opposed? I wrote the honeymoon issue, proving greed overcomes values every time.

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25TH
ANNIVERSARY
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©1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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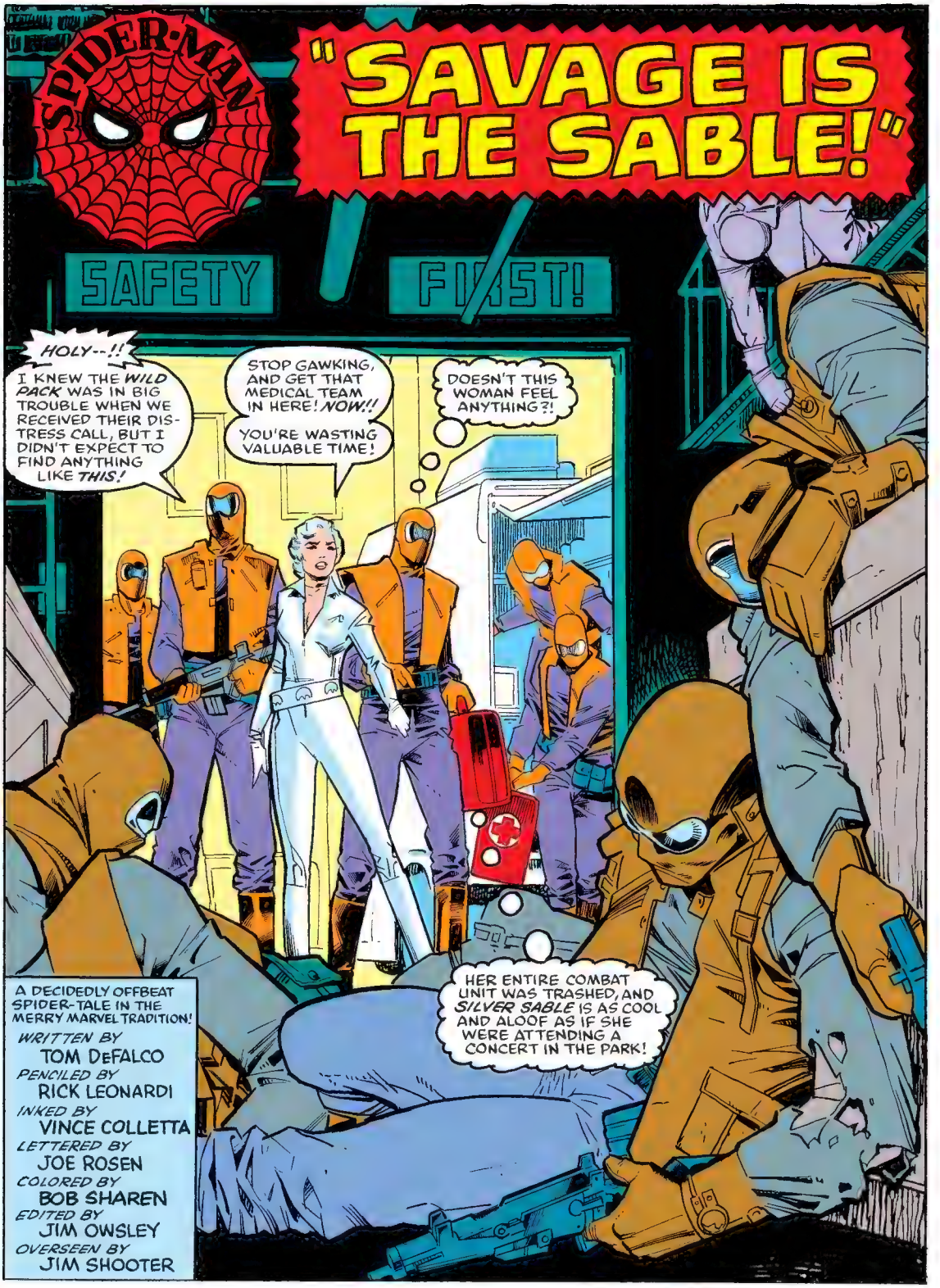
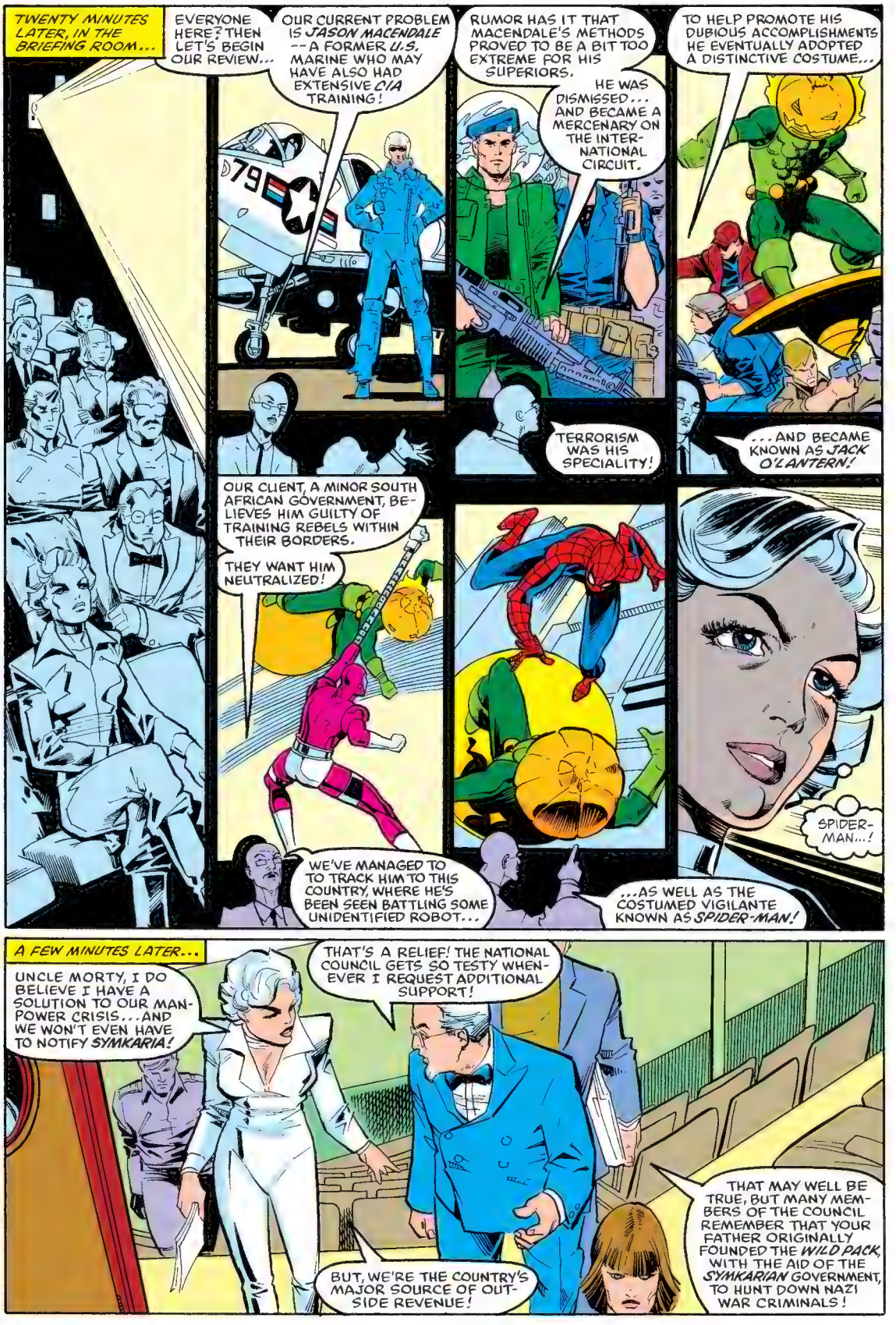
02457
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
"MISSING IN ACTION" CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN?
FACE OFF BETWEEN THE JACK O'LANTERN™ AND SILVER SABLE!™
ACTION! INTRIGUE! SUSPENSE!
FACE IT, TRUE BELIEVER... THIS ONE'S GOT IT ALL...
...EXCEPT THE GUY WITH THE WEBS


SPIDER-MAN
"SAVAGE IS THE SABLE!"
SAFETY FIRST!
HOLY--!! I KNEW THE WILD PACK WAS IN BIG TROUBLE WHEN WE RECEIVED THEIR DISTRESS CALL, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
STOP GAWKING, AND GET THAT MEDICAL TEAM IN HERE! NOW!!
YOU'RE WASTING VALUABLE TIME!
DOESN'T THIS WOMAN FEEL ANYTHING?!
HER ENTIRE COMBAT UNIT WAS TRASHED, AND SILVER SABLE IS AS COOL AND ALOOF AS IF SHE WERE ATTENDING A CONCERT IN THE PARK!
A DECIDEDLY OFFBEAT SPIDER-TALE IN THE MERRY MARVEL TRADITION!
WRITTEN BY TOM DeFALCO
PENCILED BY RICK LEONARDI
INKED BY VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY JOE ROSEN
COLORED BY BOB SHAREN
EDITED BY JIM OWSLEY
OVERSEEN BY JIM SHOOTER

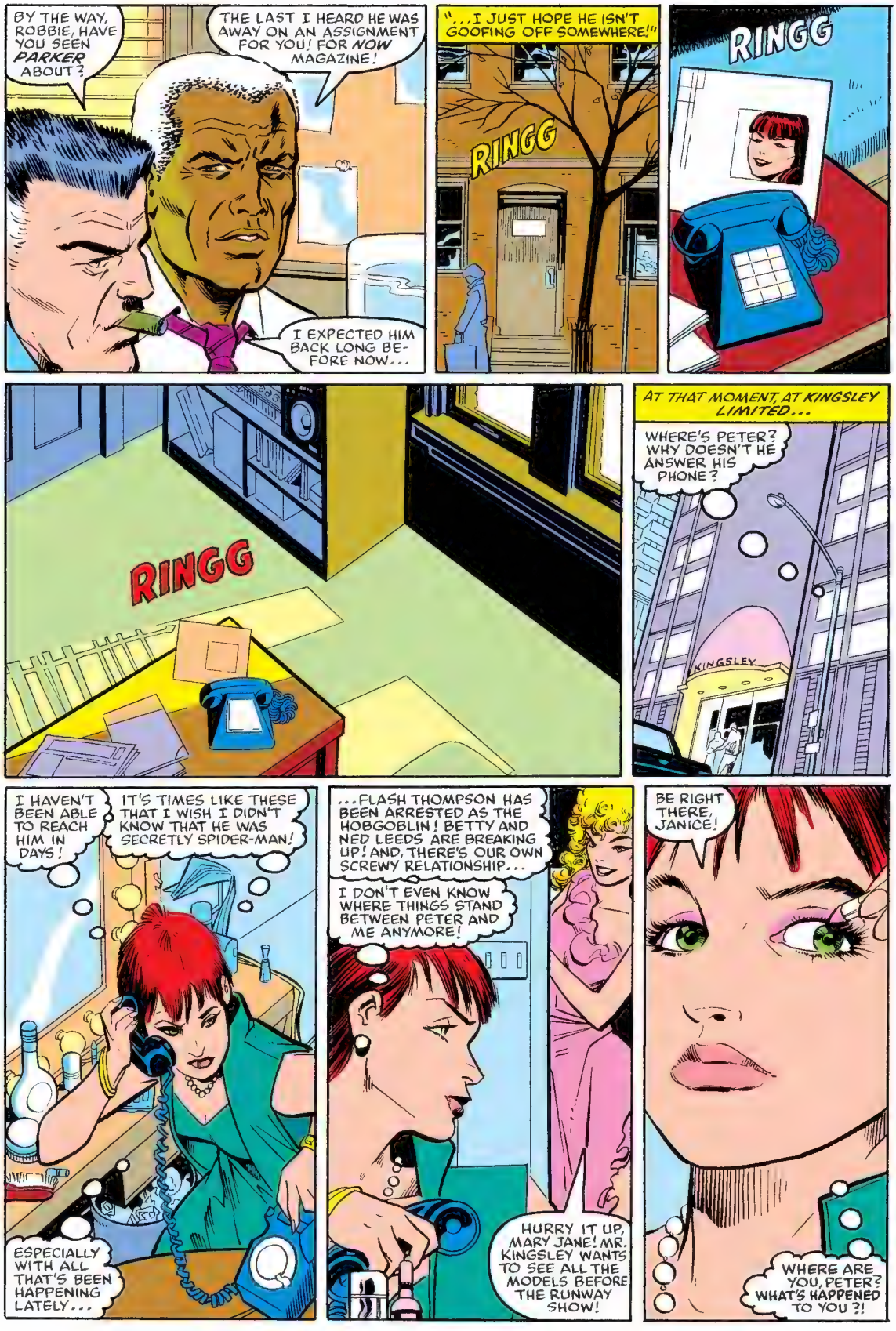
SO MANY CASUALTIES!
THIS IS BOUND TO RAISE MY MEDICAL INSURANCE RATES!
HOW BAD IS IT, JACKSON?
COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.
WE HAVE A FEW PEOPLE IN CRITICAL CONDITION, BUT THANKFULLY, NO FATALITIES!
THAT'S A RELIEF!
I NEVER REALIZED THAT SABLE CARED SO MUCH FOR HER MEN!
DON'T KID YOURSELF, PAL!
SHE WAS JUST AFRAID SHE'D HAVE TO PAY OUT A FEW DEATH BENEFITS!
SOMETIME LATER, AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY ON EAST 53RD STREET...
SHE FILLED AN ENTIRE FLOOR OF THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER?!
HAS SILVER GONE CRAZY?
WHERE IS MY NIECE?
SHE'S IN THE TRAINING ROOM, SIR.
MISS SABLE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS THAT SHE WASN'T TO BE DISTURBED DURING HER DAILY WORKOUT.
÷HHUMFF÷ NEED I TELL YOU WHERE TO STUFF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS?

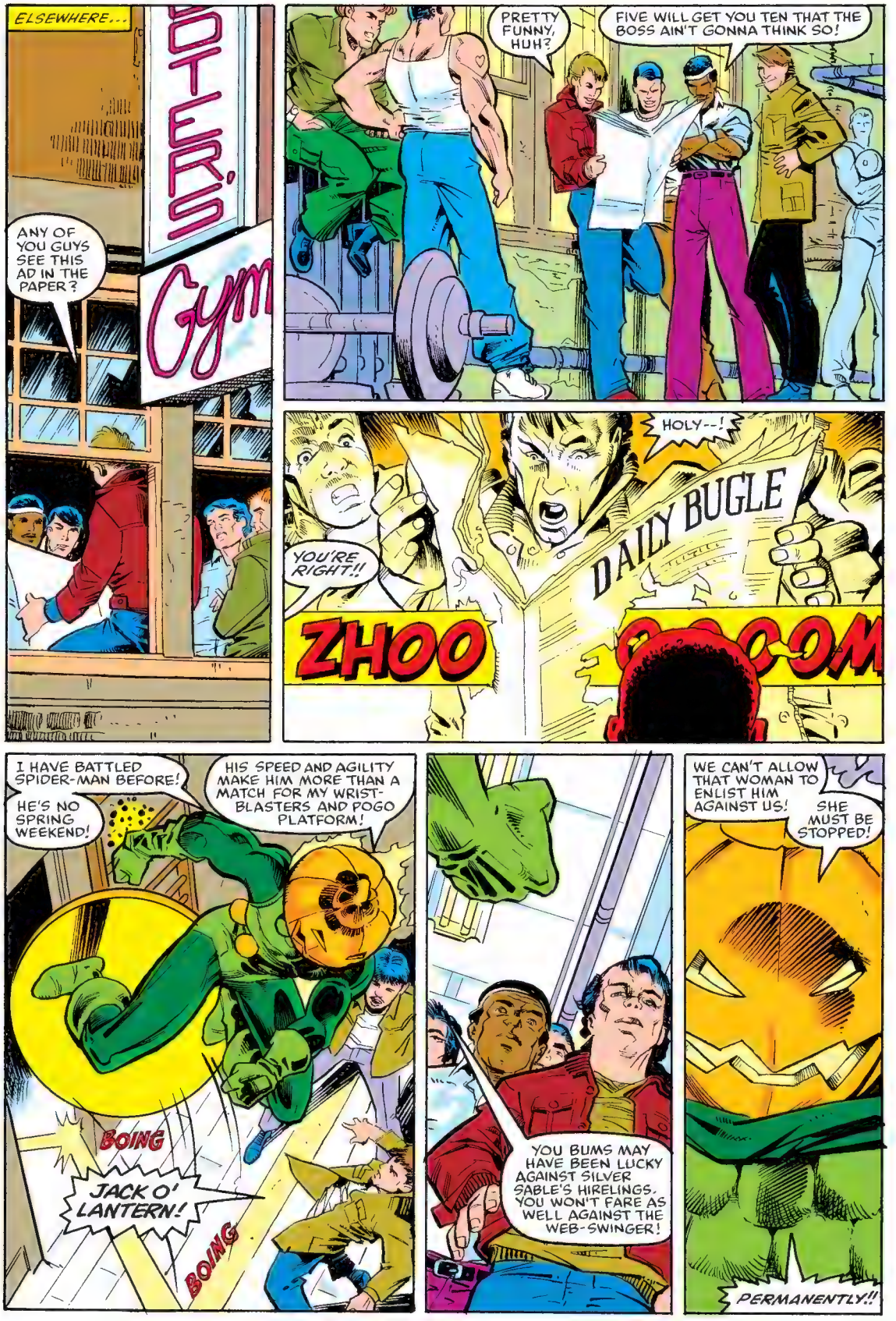
SILVER, I JUST LEARNED THAT THE ENTIRE *WILD PACK* HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
A BIT OF BAD LUCK, UNCLE MORTY!
AS YOU KNOW, *SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL* HAS BEEN ENGAGED TO APPREHEND A CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL TERRORIST.
OUR MEN FINALLY MANAGED TO LOCATE HIM THIS MORNING...
...MUCH TO THEIR OWN REGRET!
<INCREDIBLE! SHE DODGED ITO'S LUNGE!>*
<BE CAUTIOUS! YOU'RE NEXT--!>
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE--OWZ
<AN EXCELLENT MANEUVER, MISS SABLE! NOT ONLY DID YOU AVOID A SECOND LUNGE, BUT YOU'VE MANAGED TO USE HIS BODY TO HELP FOUL YOUR FIRST OPPONENT!>
<UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF OPEN TO *MY* ATTACK!>
<NOT QUITE!>
PAY ATTENTION, SILVER...
FWOK!
I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S GOING TO PAY THESE HOSPITAL BILLS.
FWAMM!
OUR CLIENT WILL COVER THEM.
BARELY MANAGED TO SPIN AROUND IN TIME!
WHAT ABOUT OUR SHORTAGE OF MAN-POWER?!
I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO SHIP IN SOME NEW AGENTS FROM *SYMKARIA*.
BUT WE CAN DISCUSS THAT IN THE BRIEFING ROOM WITH OUR *PLANNING AND OPERATIONS* PEOPLE... AFTER I'VE HAD MY SHOWER!
<THANK YOU FOR A MOST INVIGORATING WORKOUT.>
<WE LIVE TO SERVE YOU, MISS SABLE!>

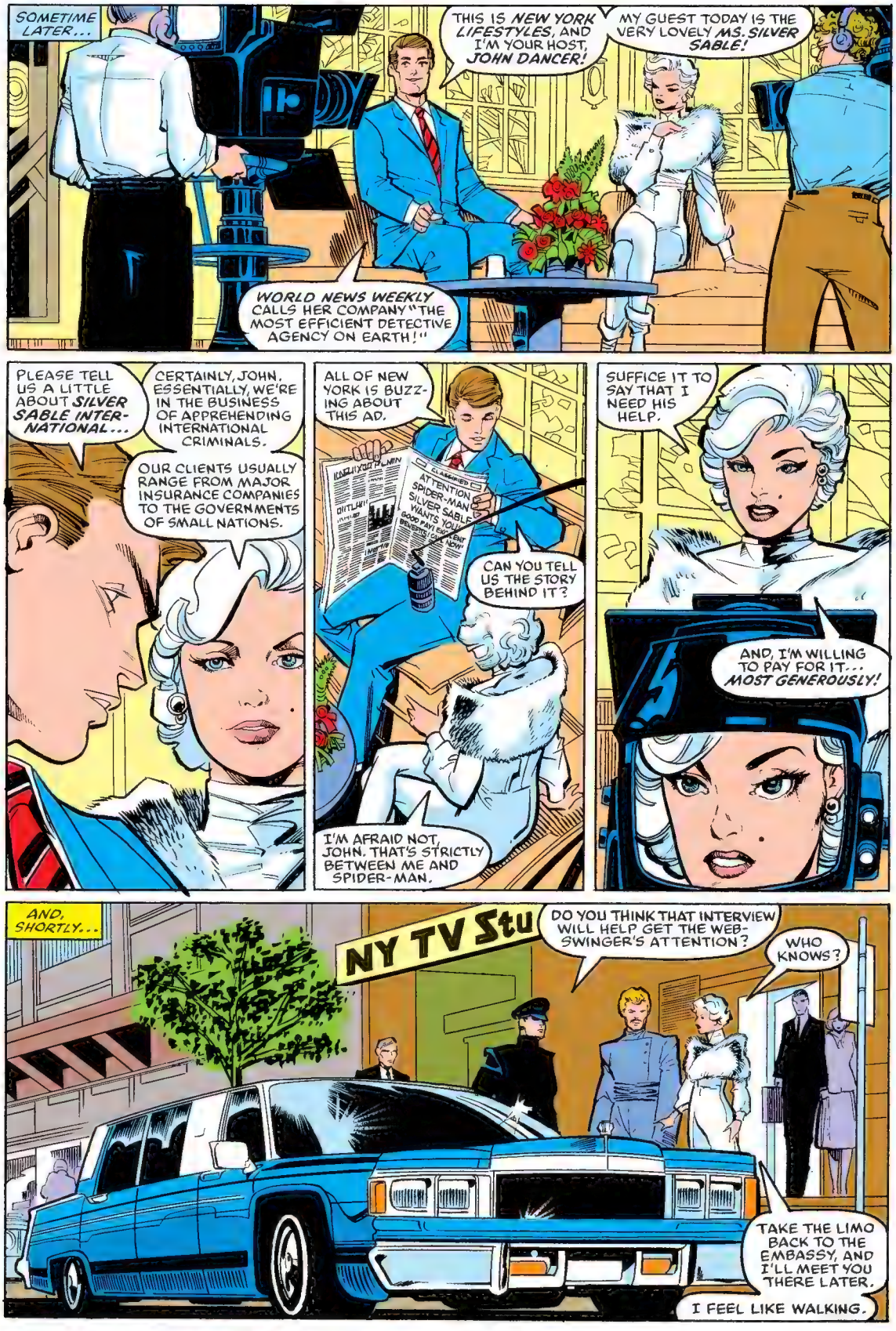

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, IN THE BRIEFING ROOM...
EVERYONE HERE? THEN LET'S BEGIN OUR REVIEW...
OUR CURRENT PROBLEM IS JASON MACENDALE --A FORMER U.S. MARINE WHO MAY HAVE ALSO HAD EXTENSIVE C/A TRAINING!
RUMOR HAS IT THAT MACENDALE'S METHODS PROVED TO BE A BIT TOO EXTREME FOR HIS SUPERIORS.
HE WAS DISMISSED... AND BECAME A MERCENARY ON THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT.
TO HELP PROMOTE HIS DUBIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE EVENTUALLY ADOPTED A DISTINCTIVE COSTUME...
TERRORISM WAS HIS SPECIALITY!
...AND BECAME KNOWN AS JACK O'LANTERN!
OUR CLIENT, A MINOR SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, BELIEVES HIM GUILTY OF TRAINING REBELS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS.
THEY WANT HIM NEUTRALIZED!
SPIDER-MAN...!
WE'VE MANAGED TO TO TRACK HIM TO THIS COUNTRY, WHERE HE'S BEEN SEEN BATTLING SOME UNIDENTIFIED ROBOT...
...AS WELL AS THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE KNOWN AS SPIDER-MAN!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
UNCLE MORTY, I DO BELIEVE I HAVE A SOLUTION TO OUR MANPOWER CRISIS...AND WE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO NOTIFY SYMKARIA!
THAT'S A RELIEF! THE NATIONAL COUNCIL GETS SO TESTY WHENEVER I REQUEST ADDITIONAL SUPPORT!
BUT, WE'RE THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR SOURCE OF OUTSIDE REVENUE!
THAT MAY WELL BE TRUE, BUT MANY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL REMEMBER THAT YOUR FATHER ORIGINALLY FOUNDED THE WILD PACK, WITH THE AID OF THE SYMKARIAN GOVERNMENT, TO HUNT DOWN NAZI WAR CRIMINALS!

THEY DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT WE NOW HUNT ANYONE ...FOR A PRICE!
THAT'S TOO BAD!
MISS SABLE, THESE FLOWERS JUST ARRIVED FOR YOU!
TAKE CARE OF THEM, JAMES.
YES, MA'AM... BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD SEE THEM!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BEAUTIFUL ORCHIDS!
ORCHIDS?!?
GIVE THEM TO ME!
NOW!!
WHAT THE--?!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MISS SABLE?
YES...
YOU COULD SAY THAT!
RINGG
GOOD AFTERNOON, MY DEAR. I TRUST YOU ENJOYED THE FLOWERS
SLAMM
WAS THAT--?
YES. OUR OLD ENEMY.
GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO COMPOSE YOURSELVES.
THEN, WE'LL DISCUSS MY SOLUTION TO OUR MANPOWER SHORTAGE...

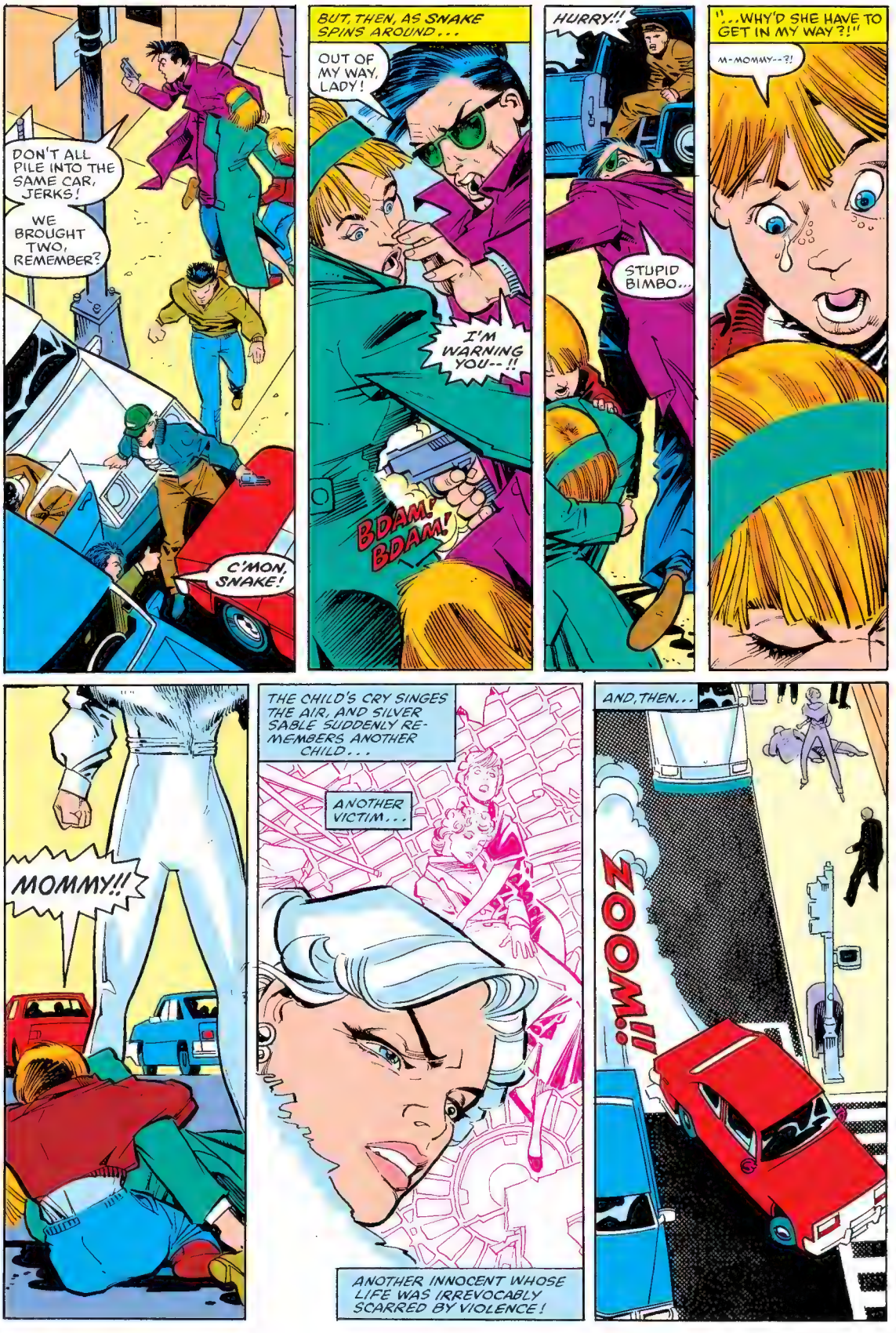
EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...
I AM SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS, INCOMPETENTS AND ASSASSINS!
DAILY BUGLE
HOW COULD ANYONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND ALLOW AN AD LIKE THIS TO APPEAR IN MY NEWSPAPER?!
CLASSIFIE
ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!
GOOD PAY! EXCELLENT BENEFITS! CALL NOW!
OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY!
ISN'T IT BAD ENOUGH THAT WE GIVE THAT WEB-SWINGING MENACE FREE PUBLICITY? DO WE HAVE TO HELP SOLICIT BUSINESS FOR HIM, TOO?!
AS THE EDITOR IN CHIEF I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, JONAH.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ROBBIE!
YOU'RE EDITORIAL. YOU DON'T SEE THE ADS BEFORE THEY'RE PRINTED.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COVER FOR ME, MR. ROBERTSON.
I APPROVED THAT PARTICULAR ADVERTISEMENT, MR. JAMESON.
IS THAT SO?
LISTEN HERE, CORNBLUTH, I EXPECT BETTER JUDGMENT FROM MY DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING!
THE MECHANICAL ARRIVED LATE LAST NIGHT BY BONDED MESSENGER...
...IT CAME WITH A BANK CHECK FOR DOUBLE OUR PREMIUM AD RATES!
DOUBLE OUR PREMIUM RATES?!
WELL, I, ER - HARRUMPH - SUPPOSE EVERYONE'S ENTITLED TO ONE MISTAKE, JASPER!
JUST CHECK WITH ROBBIE BEFORE YOU PRINT ANY MORE ADS OF A QUESTIONABLE NATURE!

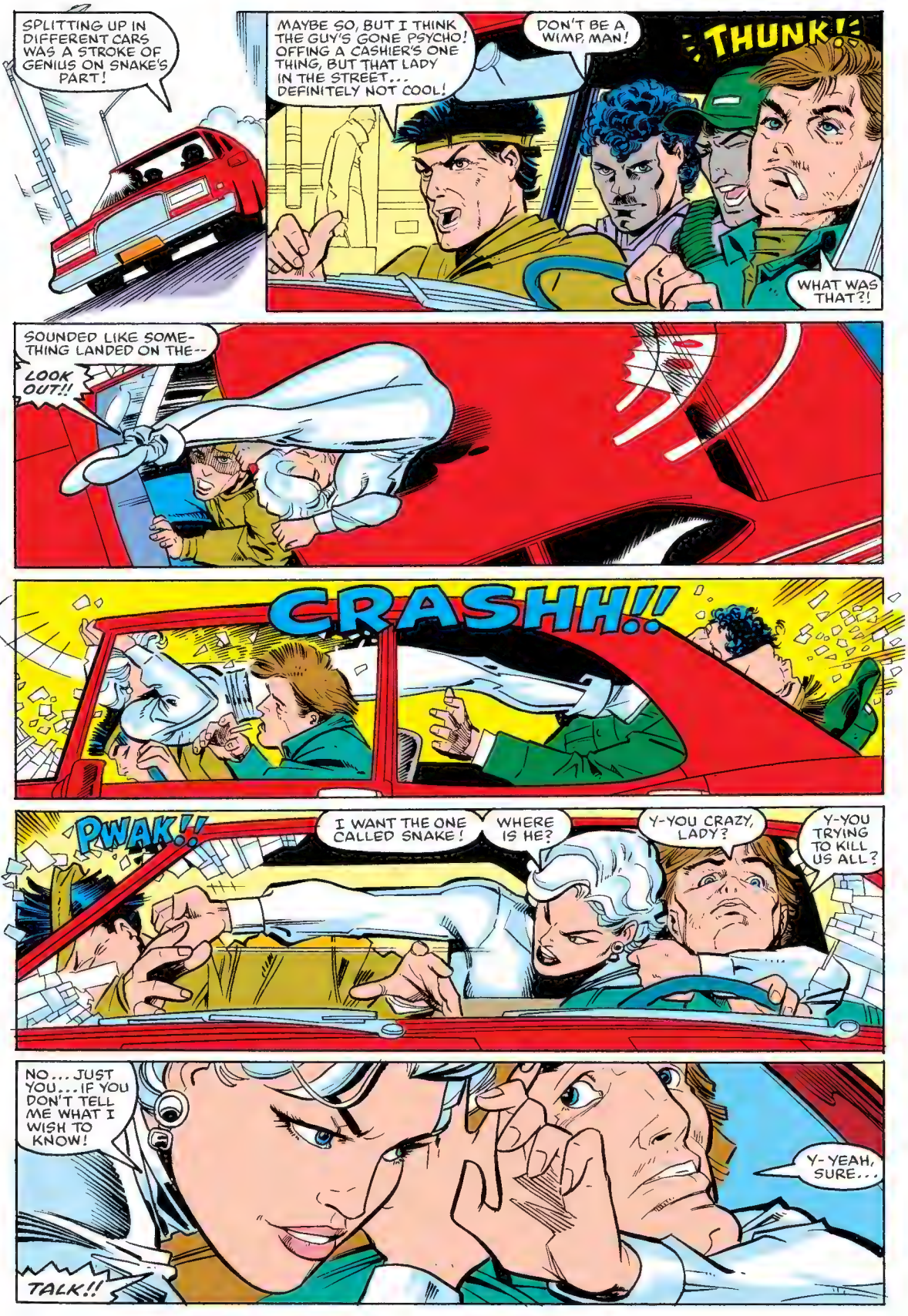

BY THE WAY, ROBBIE, HAVE YOU SEEN PARKER ABOUT?
THE LAST I HEARD HE WAS AWAY ON AN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU! FOR NOW MAGAZINE!
I EXPECTED HIM BACK LONG BEFORE NOW...
"...I JUST HOPE HE ISN'T GOOFING OFF SOMEWHERE!"
RINGG
RINGG
RINGG
AT THAT MOMENT, AT KINGSLEY LIMITED...
WHERE'S PETER? WHY DOESN'T HE ANSWER HIS PHONE?
KINGSLEY
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM IN DAYS!
IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT I WISH I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN!
ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING LATELY...
...FLASH THOMPSON HAS BEEN ARRESTED AS THE HOBGOBLIN! BETTY AND NED LEEDS ARE BREAKING UP! AND, THERE'S OUR OWN SCREWY RELATIONSHIP...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THINGS STAND BETWEEN PETER AND ME ANYMORE!
HURRY IT UP, MARY JANE! MR. KINGSLEY WANTS TO SEE ALL THE MODELS BEFORE THE RUNWAY SHOW!
BE RIGHT THERE, JANICE!
WHERE ARE YOU, PETER? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

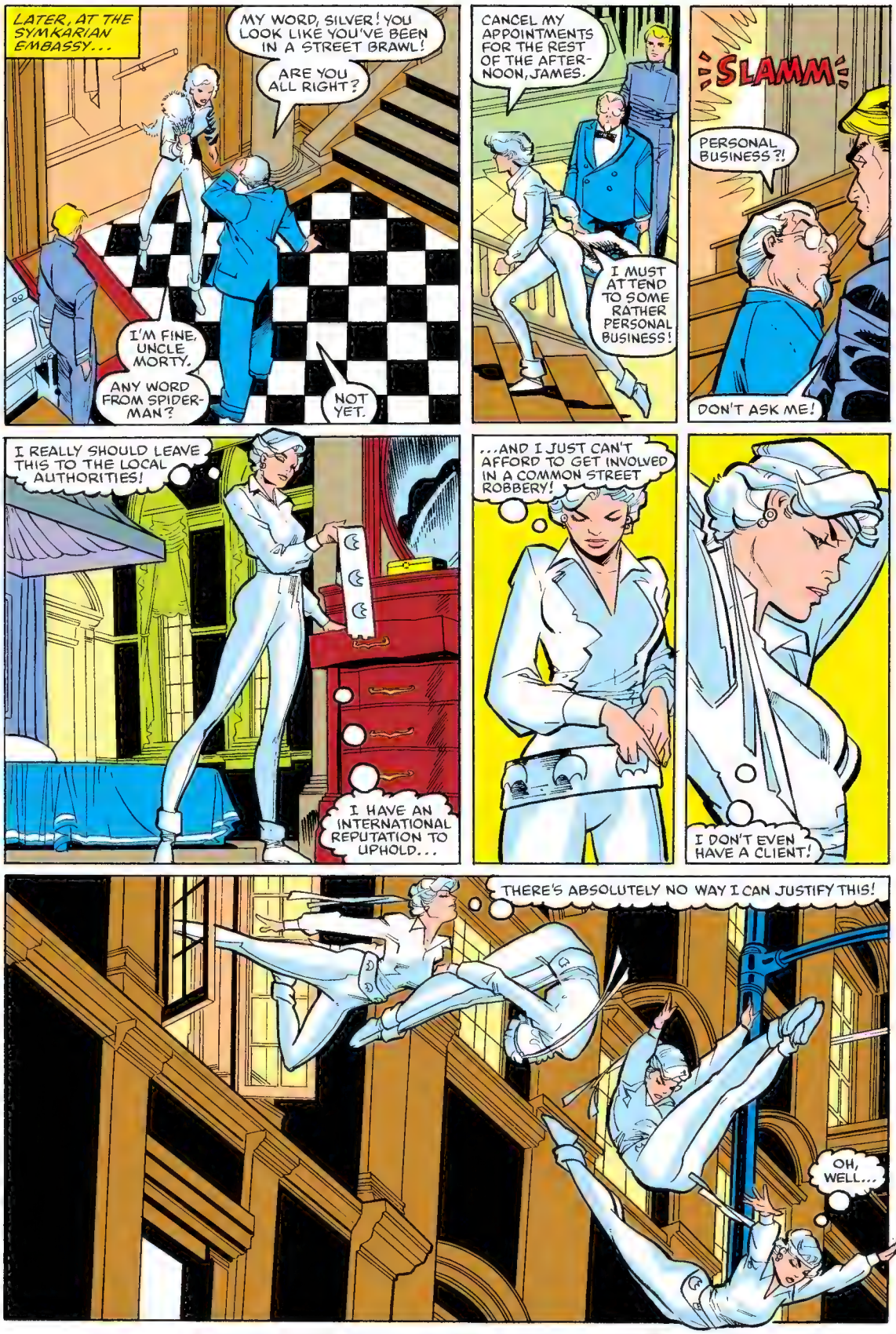

ELSEWHERE...
ANY OF YOU GUYS SEE THIS AD IN THE PAPER?
Gym
PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?
FIVE WILL GET YOU TEN THAT THE BOSS AIN'T GONNA THINK SO!
HOLY--!
DAILY BUGLE
YOU'RE RIGHT!!
ZHOO
I HAVE BATTLED SPIDER-MAN BEFORE!
HE'S NO SPRING WEEKEND!
HIS SPEED AND AGILITY MAKE HIM MORE THAN A MATCH FOR MY WRIST-BLASTERS AND POGO PLATFORM!
BOING
JACK O' LANTERN!
BOING
YOU BUMS MAY HAVE BEEN LUCKY AGAINST SILVER SABLE'S HIRELINGS. YOU WON'T FARE AS WELL AGAINST THE WEB-SWINGER!
WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT WOMAN TO ENLIST HIM AGAINST US!
SHE MUST BE STOPPED!
PERMANENTLY!!

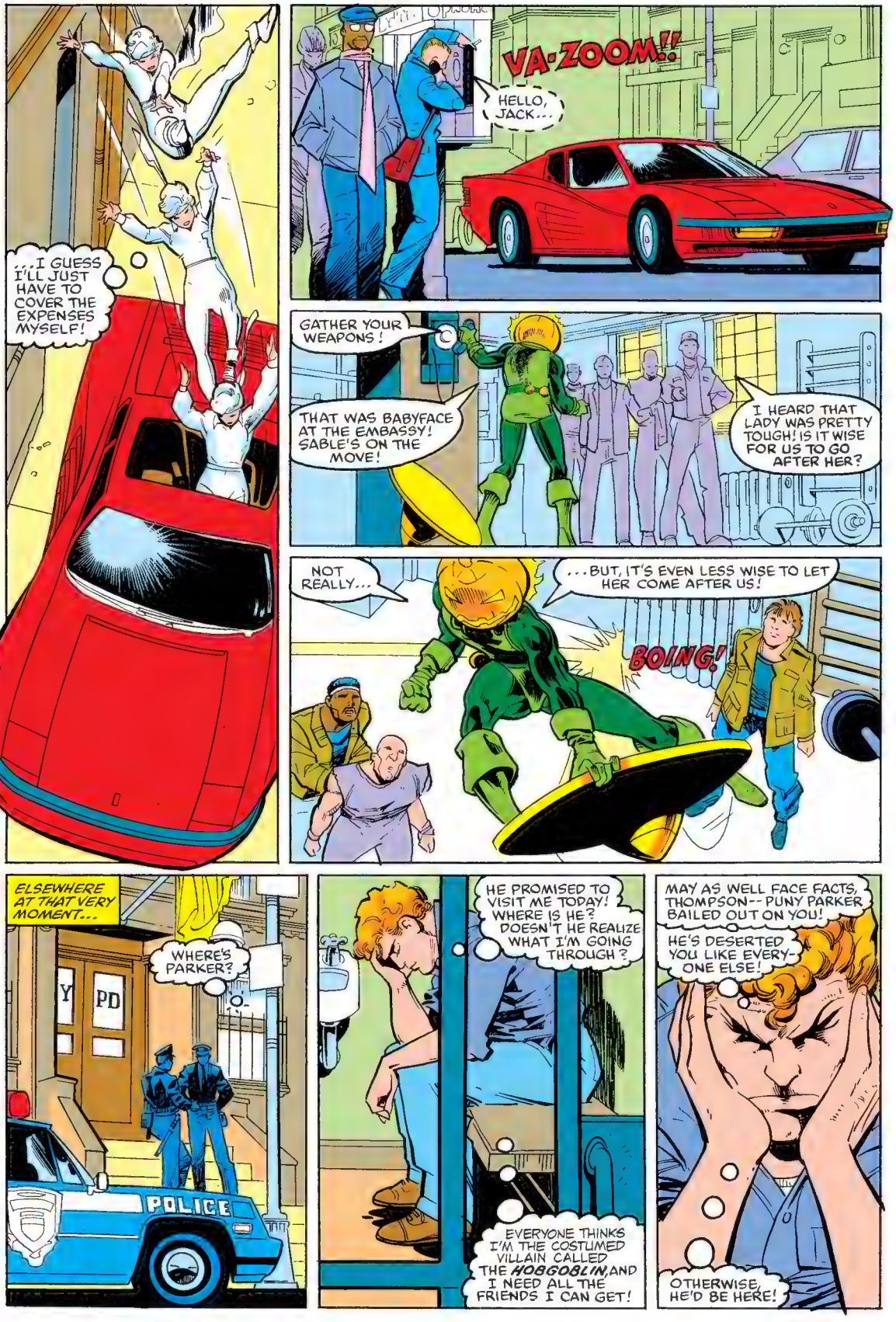

SOMETIME LATER...
THIS IS NEW YORK LIFESTYLES, AND I'M YOUR HOST, JOHN DANCER!
MY GUEST TODAY IS THE VERY LOVELY MS. SILVER SABLE!
WORLD NEWS WEEKLY CALLS HER COMPANY "THE MOST EFFICIENT DETECTIVE AGENCY ON EARTH!"
PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL...
CERTAINLY, JOHN. ESSENTIALLY, WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF APPREHENDING INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS.
OUR CLIENTS USUALLY RANGE FROM MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF SMALL NATIONS.
ALL OF NEW YORK IS BUZZING ABOUT THIS AD.
CLASSIFIED
ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN! SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!
CAN YOU TELL US THE STORY BEHIND IT?
I'M AFRAID NOT, JOHN. THAT'S STRICTLY BETWEEN ME AND SPIDER-MAN.
SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I NEED HIS HELP.
AND, I'M WILLING TO PAY FOR IT... MOST GENEROUSLY!
AND, SHORTLY...
NY TV Stu
DO YOU THINK THAT INTERVIEW WILL HELP GET THE WEB-SWINGER'S ATTENTION?
WHO KNOWS?
TAKE THE LIMO BACK TO THE EMBASSY, AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE LATER.
I FEEL LIKE WALKING.

I ENJOY WALKING ALONE. TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO DO IT MORE OFTEN.
I GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SEND BACK TO SYMKARIA FOR MORE MEN IF I DON'T HEAR FROM SPIDER-MAN SOON.
UNCLE MORTY WILL BE FURIOUS! HE HATES THE IDEA OF USING THE WILD PACK FOR PROFIT!
HE'S CONVINCED THAT I'VE PERVERTED MY FATHER'S ORIGINAL DREAM!
BUT, WE HAD TO CHANGE WITH THE TIMES! THERE JUST AREN'T THAT MANY NAZI WAR CRIMINALS RUNNING AROUND ANYMORE.
BESIDES, SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE OF THE SYMKARIAN ECONOMY!
THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WOULD GO UNDER WITHOUT US! I CAN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT ME FROM MY TRUE RESPONSIBILITIES...
BDAM! BDAM!
GUNSHOTS--!!
A HOLD-UP!
MOVE IT, YOU CLOWNS!
WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! THE CASHIER WOULDN'T COME ACROSS, SO I HAD TO PUT HIM DOWN!


DON'T ALL PILE INTO THE SAME CAR, JERKS!
WE BROUGHT TWO, REMEMBER?
C'MON, SNAKE!
BUT, THEN, AS SNAKE SPINS AROUND...
OUT OF MY WAY, LADY!
I'M WARNING YOU--!!
BDAM! BDAM!
HURRY!!
STUPID BIMBO...
"...WHY'D SHE HAVE TO GET IN MY WAY?!"
M-MOMMY--?!
MOMMY!!
THE CHILD'S CRY SINGES THE AIR, AND SILVER SABLE SUDDENLY REMEMBERS ANOTHER CHILD...
ANOTHER VICTIM...
ANOTHER INNOCENT WHOSE LIFE WAS IRREVOCABLY SCARRED BY VIOLENCE!
AND, THEN...
ZOOM!!!


SPLITTING UP IN DIFFERENT CARS WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS ON SNAKE'S PART!
MAYBE SO, BUT I THINK THE GUY'S GONE PSYCHO! OFFING A CASHIER'S ONE THING, BUT THAT LADY IN THE STREET... DEFINITELY NOT COOL!
DON'T BE A WIMP, MAN!
THUNK!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING LANDED ON THE--
LOOK OUT!!
CRASHH!!
PWAK!!
I WANT THE ONE CALLED SNAKE!
WHERE IS HE?
Y-YOU CRAZY, LADY?
Y-YOU TRYING TO KILL US ALL?
NO... JUST YOU... IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW!
TALK!!
Y-YEAH, SURE...


LATER, AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY...
MY WORD, SILVER! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN IN A STREET BRAWL!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE, UNCLE MORTY.
ANY WORD FROM SPIDER-MAN?
NOT YET.
CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE REST OF THE AFTER-NOON, JAMES.
I MUST ATTEND TO SOME RATHER PERSONAL BUSINESS!
SLAMM
PERSONAL BUSINESS?!
DON'T ASK ME!
I REALLY SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES!
I HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TO UPHOLD...
...AND I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO GET INVOLVED IN A COMMON STREET ROBBERY!
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLIENT!
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I CAN JUSTIFY THIS!
OH, WELL...

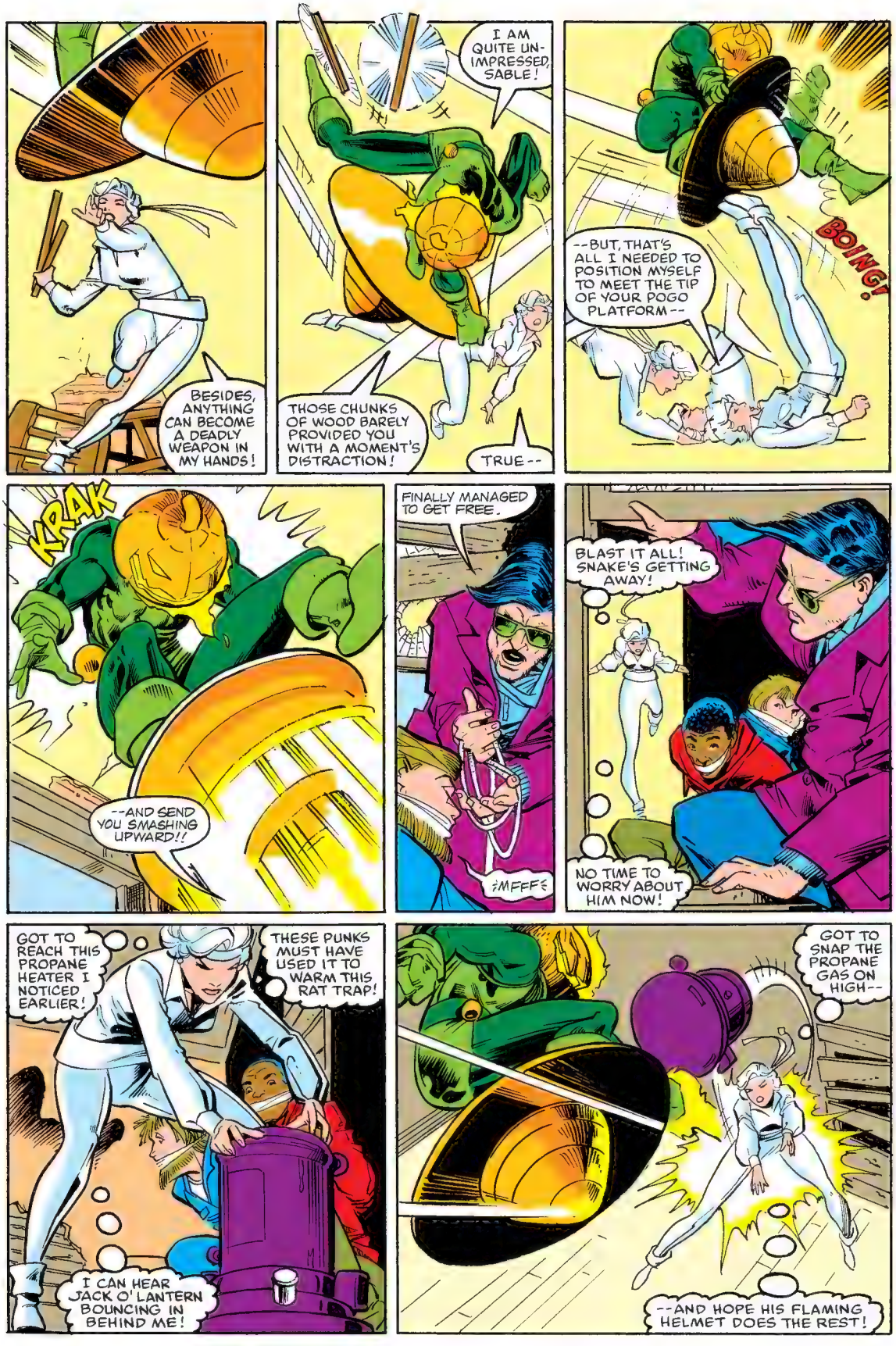

...I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO COVER THE EXPENSES MYSELF!
VA-ZOOM!!
HELLO, JACK...
GATHER YOUR WEAPONS!
THAT WAS BABYFACE AT THE EMBASSY! SABLE'S ON THE MOVE!
I HEARD THAT LADY WAS PRETTY TOUGH! IS IT WISE FOR US TO GO AFTER HER?
NOT REALLY...
...BUT, IT'S EVEN LESS WISE TO LET HER COME AFTER US!
BOING!
ELSEWHERE AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
WHERE'S PARKER?
POLICE
HE PROMISED TO VISIT ME TODAY! WHERE IS HE? DOESN'T HE REALIZE WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH?
EVERYONE THINKS I'M THE COSTUMED VILLAIN CALLED THE HOBGOBLIN, AND I NEED ALL THE FRIENDS I CAN GET!
MAY AS WELL FACE FACTS, THOMPSON-- PUNY PARKER BAILED OUT ON YOU!
HE'S DESERTED YOU LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE!
OTHERWISE, HE'D BE HERE!

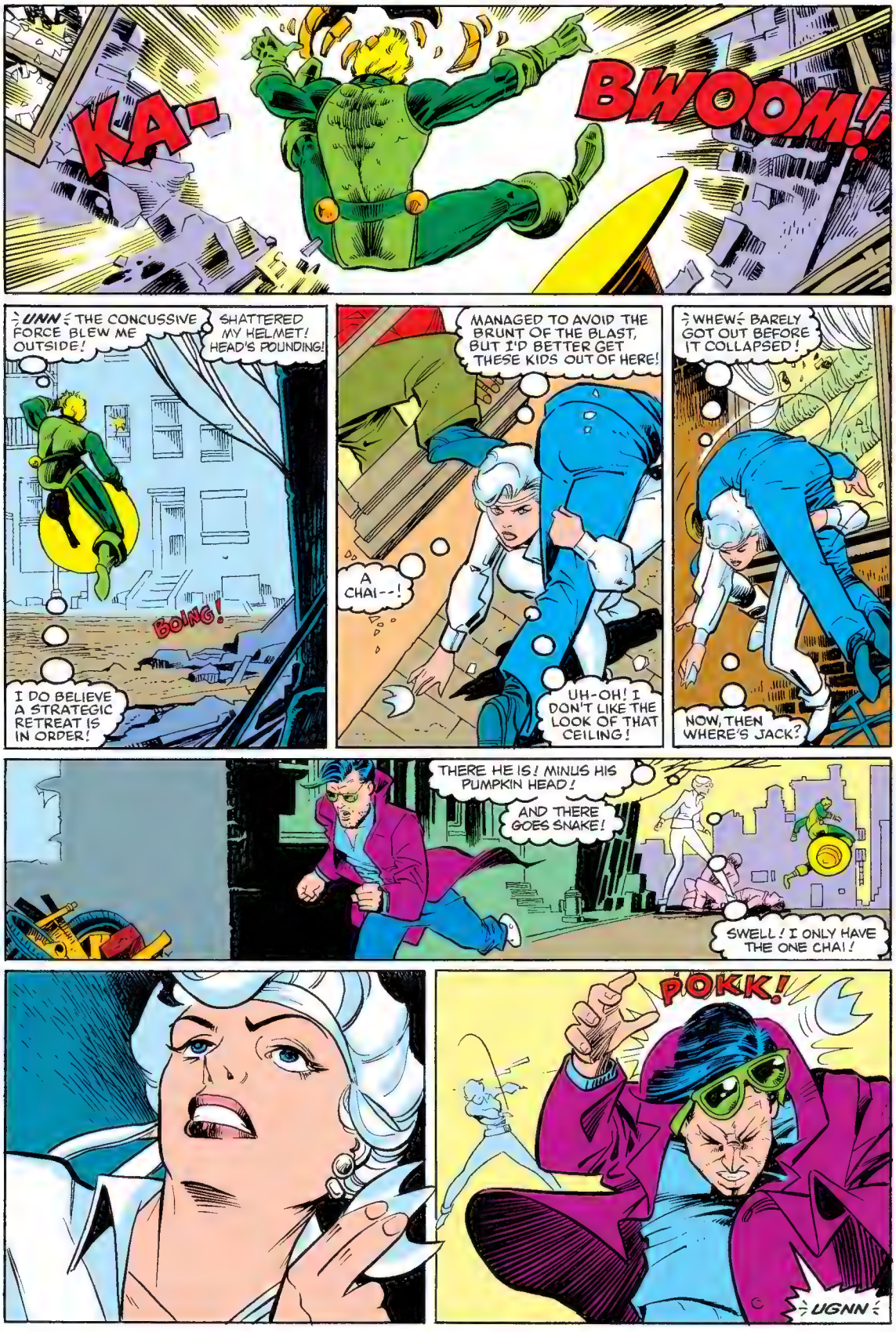
MEANWHILE...
YOU SAY SHE ENTERED THAT OLD TENEMENT. WHY?
I COULDN'T EVEN GUESS!
I SUPPOSE IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAY!
SURROUND THE PLACE, MEN! COVER ALL THE EXITS!
I WANT THAT WOMAN DEAD!
WE HEAR YA, JACK!
THERE! I HEARD IT AGAIN!
IT'S JUST THE WIND, SNAKE!
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER ONCE WE GET THE HEAT GOING ON THE OL' PROPANE!
NO! I'M SURE SOMEONE'S MOVING AROUND UPSTAIRS!
ELIOT! WILLIE! I WANT YOU GUYS TO SCOPE OUT THE UPPER FLOORS!
SURE, SURE, MAN... WHATEVER YOU SAY!
WHEW! THAT DUDE'S IN HIGH GEAR!
WHY DO YOU FIGURE HE'S SO SPOOKED?
IT'S GOTTA BE THE BROAD! YOU DON'T ICE A FRAIL WITHOUT PAYING A--
--PRICE?!
FWOK!
PWAP!
A MOST PAINFUL PRICE, MY FRIEND!
GOT TO KEEP MOVING! I HEAR OTHERS WALKING--

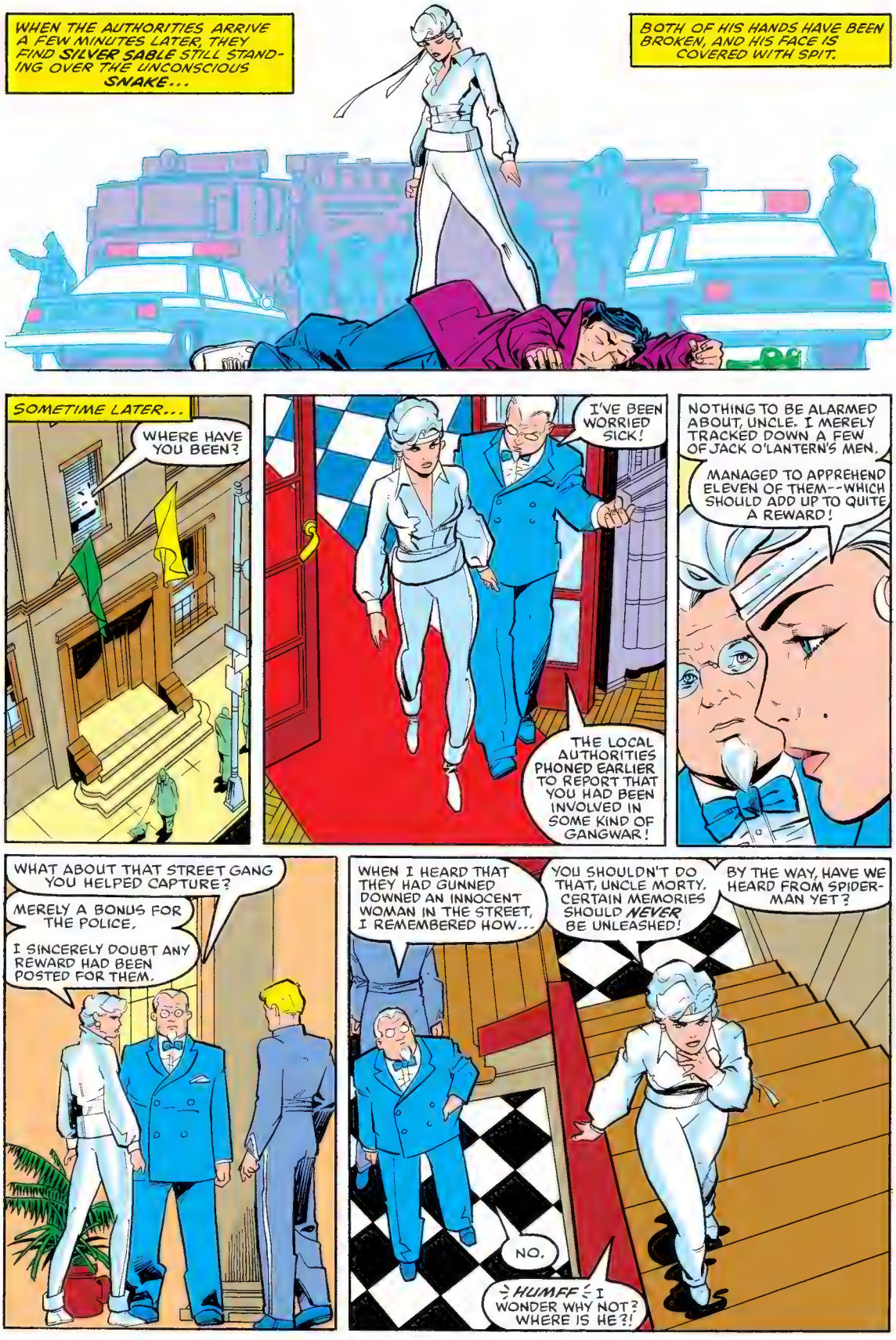
"--ON THE LANDING BELOW!"
COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?
THOSE GENTLEMEN CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK LIKE ANY STREET PUNKS I'VE EVER SEEN!
THEY'RE ALL CARRYING UZI SUB-MACHINE GUNS!
METHINKS IT'S TIME FOR MY OWN HEAVY ARTILLERY!
KEEP TOGETHER! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY-BODY!
FOKK
URRK
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, HARRAS?
I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO ANSWER YOU, ARMAND!
WHAT THE--?!
HEY! LOOK AT THAT THING ON THE FLOOR!
FOKK
FOKK
IT'S CALLED A CHAI--A WEAPON OF MY OWN INVENTION! VERY EFFICIENT, YES?
I RECOGNIZE THESE MEN! THEY'RE WANTED CRIMINALS--MERCENARIES WITH PRICES ON THEIR HEADS!
THIS OUTING MAY PROVE PROFITABLE AFTER ALL!
MEANWHILE...
LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!
PUNKS?! WHY WOULD SABLE BE INTERESTED IN SUCH AS THESE?
I-I DON'T KNOW NOTHING, MAN!

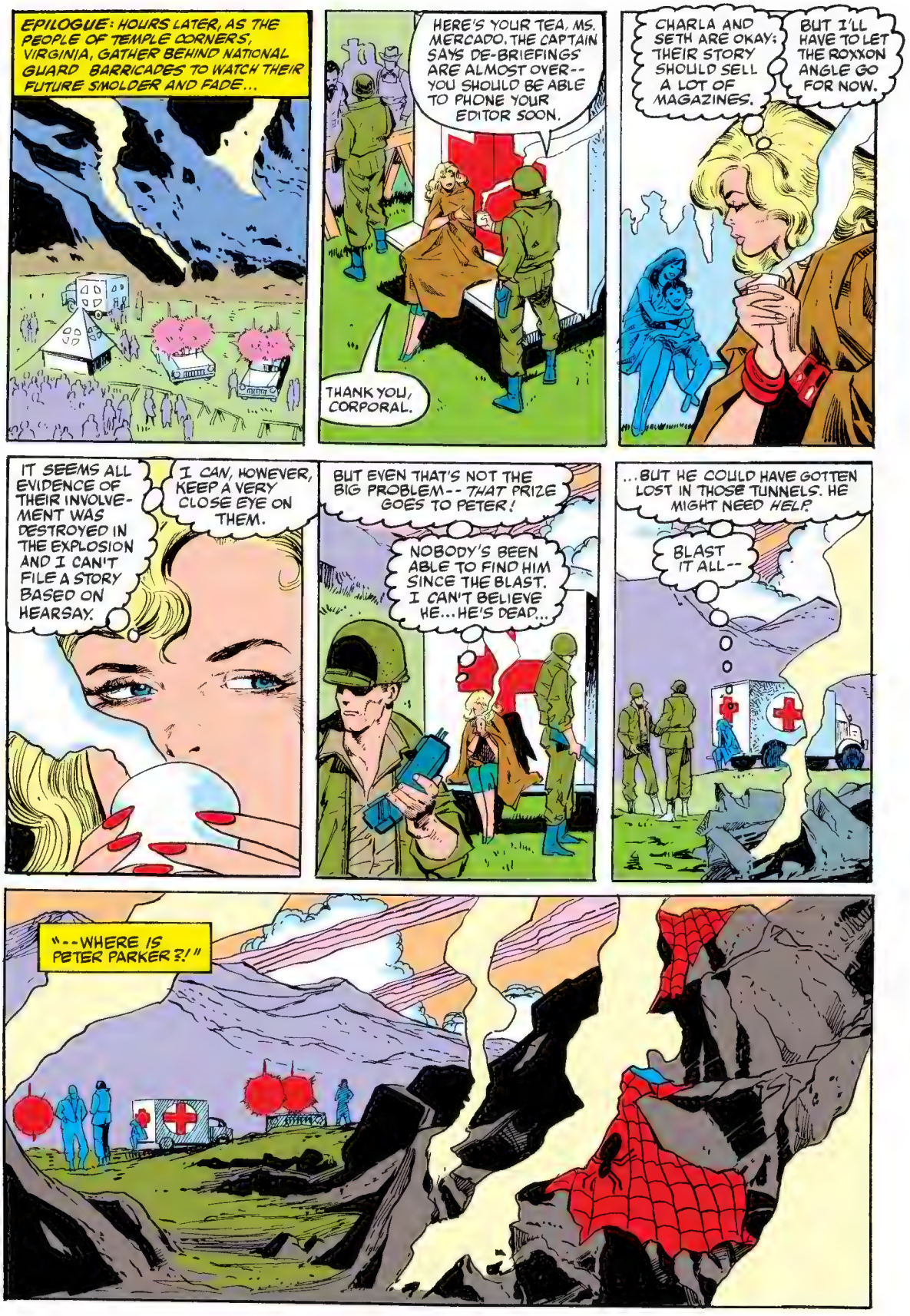
ELSEWHERE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING THROUGH ALL THIS FOR ONE BROAD!
WORD IS SHE'S REAL GOOD!
GIMME A BREAK! HOW GOOD COULD SHE POSSIBLY BE?
THE BEST!
BWAK!
UGNN
F-FREEZE, LADY! I GOT YOU--
SWAT!
FA-KWASH!
--COVERED
WE'RE GETTING MURDERED, JACK! I JUST FOUND FIVE MORE OF OUR GUYS LAID OUT IN THE HALL!
THAT BLASTED WOMAN WILL SMASH MY ENTIRE MERCENARY FORCE IF I DON'T TAKE CHARGE!
GET THE REMAINING MEN OUTSIDE! NOW!!
I'LL STOP HER MYSELF!
MOMENTS LATER...
ODD! THERE WAS A BRIEF FLURRY OF ACTIVITY, AND NOW THE PLACE IS AS QUIET AS A TOMB!
MFFF
WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
HARDLY!!

I PREFER TO THINK OF THEM AS BAIT!
JACK O'LANTERN!!
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MET, MY DEAR! YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HOUNDING ME ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR MONTHS!
BWANG!
DON'T BOTHER WASTING YOUR CHAIS ON ME, LOVELY LADY! THEY'LL NEVER PENETRATE MY ARMORED HELMET!
IT'S A PITY THAT YOU LACK SIMILAR PROTECTION--
--FROM MY GAS GRENADES!
BWOOM!
I'M NOT PREPARED TO FACE ANYONE LIKE HIM! DIDN'T BRING THE PROPER WEAPONRY!
GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO IMPROVISE!
CRASHING INTO THIS ROOM WILL GET ME AWAY FROM THE GAS, AND BUY ME A FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS!
I JUST HOPE I CAN FIND SOMETHING THAT CAN BE USED AS A WEAPON!
GOTTA KEEP WORKING MY BONDS! I CAN FEEL THEM LOOSENING!
SURELY, YOU DON'T THINK AN OLD CHAIR WILL BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ME!
WHY NOT?
THESE STAVES ARE GOOD AND STURDY!


BESIDES, ANYTHING CAN BECOME A DEADLY WEAPON IN MY HANDS!
I AM QUITE UN-IMPRESSED, SABLE!
THOSE CHUNKS OF WOOD BARELY PROVIDED YOU WITH A MOMENT'S DISTRACTION!
TRUE--
--BUT, THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO POSITION MYSELF TO MEET THE TIP OF YOUR POGO PLATFORM--
BOING!
KRAK
--AND SEND YOU SMASHING UPWARD!!
FINALLY MANAGED TO GET FREE.
MFFF
BLAST IT ALL! SNAKE'S GETTING AWAY!
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW!
GOT TO REACH THIS PROPANE HEATER I NOTICED EARLIER!
THESE PUNKS MUST HAVE USED IT TO WARM THIS RAT TRAP!
I CAN HEAR JACK O' LANTERN BOUNCING IN BEHIND ME!
GOT TO SNAP THE PROPANE GAS ON HIGH--
--AND HOPE HIS FLAMING HELMET DOES THE REST!


KA-
BWOOM!
UNN THE CONCUSSIVE FORCE BLEW ME OUTSIDE!
SHATTERED MY HELMET! HEAD'S PUNDING!
BOING!
I DO BELIEVE A STRATEGIC RETREAT IS IN ORDER!
MANAGED TO AVOID THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST, BUT I'D BETTER GET THESE KIDS OUT OF HERE!
A CHAI--!
UH-OH! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THAT CEILING!
WHEW BARELY GOT OUT BEFORE IT COLLAPSED!
NOW, THEN WHERE'S JACK?
THERE HE IS! MINUS HIS PUMPKIN HEAD!
AND THERE GOES SNAKE!
SWELL! I ONLY HAVE THE ONE CHAI!
POKK!
UGNN


WHEN THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES LATER, THEY FIND SILVER SABLE STILL STANDING OVER THE UNCONSCIOUS SNAKE...
BOTH OF HIS HANDS HAVE BEEN BROKEN, AND HIS FACE IS COVERED WITH SPIT.
SOMETIME LATER...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK!
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES PHONED EARLIER TO REPORT THAT YOU HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF GANGWAR!
NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT, UNCLE. I MERELY TRACKED DOWN A FEW OF JACK O'LANTERN'S MEN.
MANAGED TO APPREHEND ELEVEN OF THEM--WHICH SHOULD ADD UP TO QUITE A REWARD!
WHAT ABOUT THAT STREET GANG YOU HELPED CAPTURE?
MERELY A BONUS FOR THE POLICE.
I SINCERELY DOUBT ANY REWARD HAD BEEN POSTED FOR THEM.
WHEN I HEARD THAT THEY HAD GUNNED DOWNED AN INNOCENT WOMAN IN THE STREET, I REMEMBERED HOW...
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, UNCLE MORTY. CERTAIN MEMORIES SHOULD NEVER BE UNLEASHED!
BY THE WAY, HAVE WE HEARD FROM SPIDER-MAN YET?
NO.
HUMFF! I WONDER WHY NOT? WHERE IS HE?!


EPILOGUE: HOURS LATER, AS THE PEOPLE OF TEMPLE CORNERS, VIRGINIA, GATHER BEHIND NATIONAL GUARD BARRICADES TO WATCH THEIR FUTURE SMOLDER AND FADE...
HERE'S YOUR TEA, MS. MERCADO. THE CAPTAIN SAYS DE-BRIEFINGS ARE ALMOST OVER-- YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PHONE YOUR EDITOR SOON.
THANK YOU, CORPORAL.
CHARLA AND SETH ARE OKAY; THEIR STORY SHOULD SELL A LOT OF MAGAZINES.
BUT I'LL HAVE TO LET THE ROXXON ANGLE GO FOR NOW.
IT SEEMS ALL EVIDENCE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT WAS DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION AND I CAN'T FILE A STORY BASED ON HEARSAY.
I CAN, HOWEVER, KEEP A VERY CLOSE EYE ON THEM.
BUT EVEN THAT'S NOT THE BIG PROBLEM-- THAT PRIZE GOES TO PETER!
NOBODY'S BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM SINCE THE BLAST. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE... HE'S DEAD...
...BUT HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN LOST IN THOSE TUNNELS. HE MIGHT NEED HELP.
BLAST IT ALL--
"--WHERE IS PETER PARKER?!"

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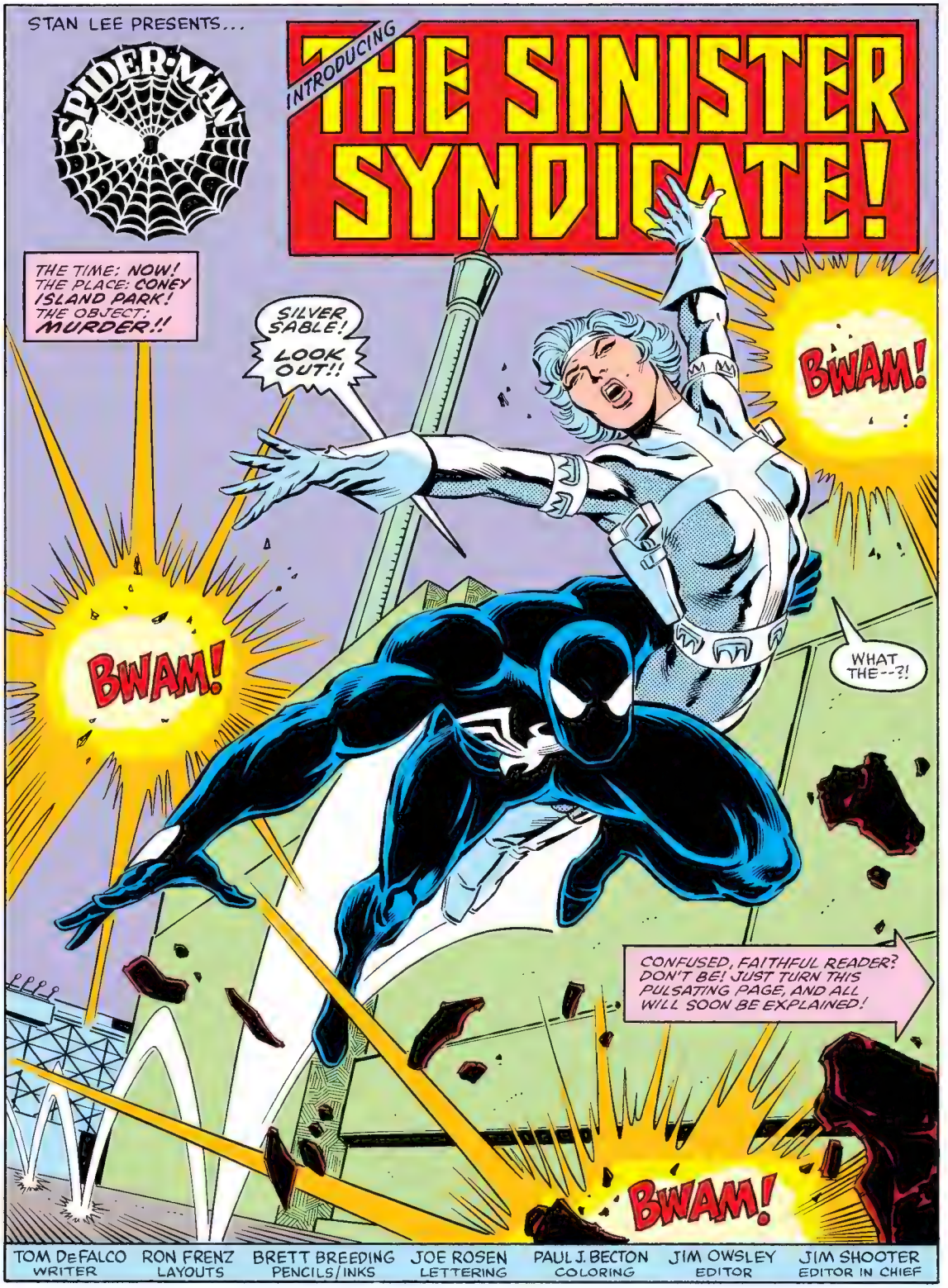
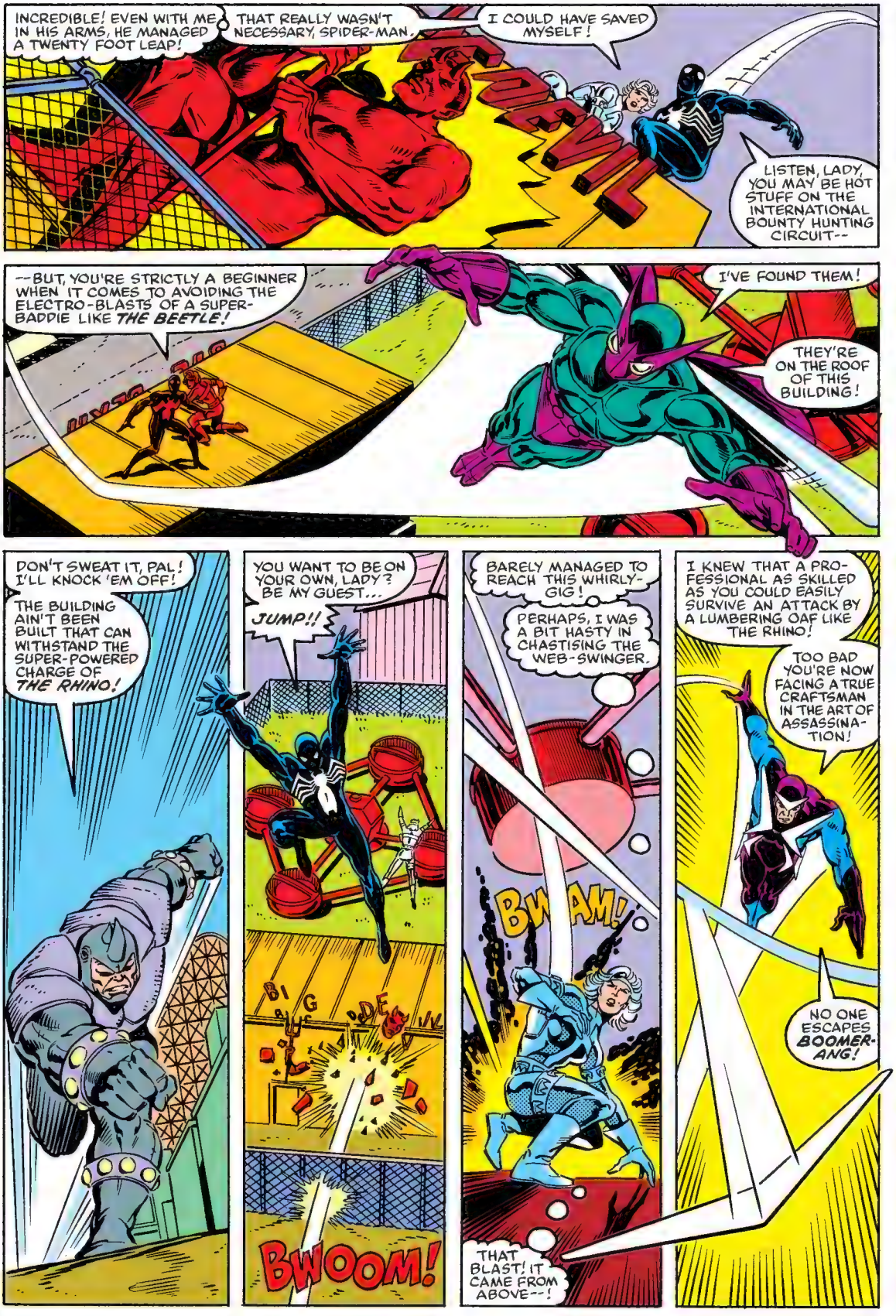
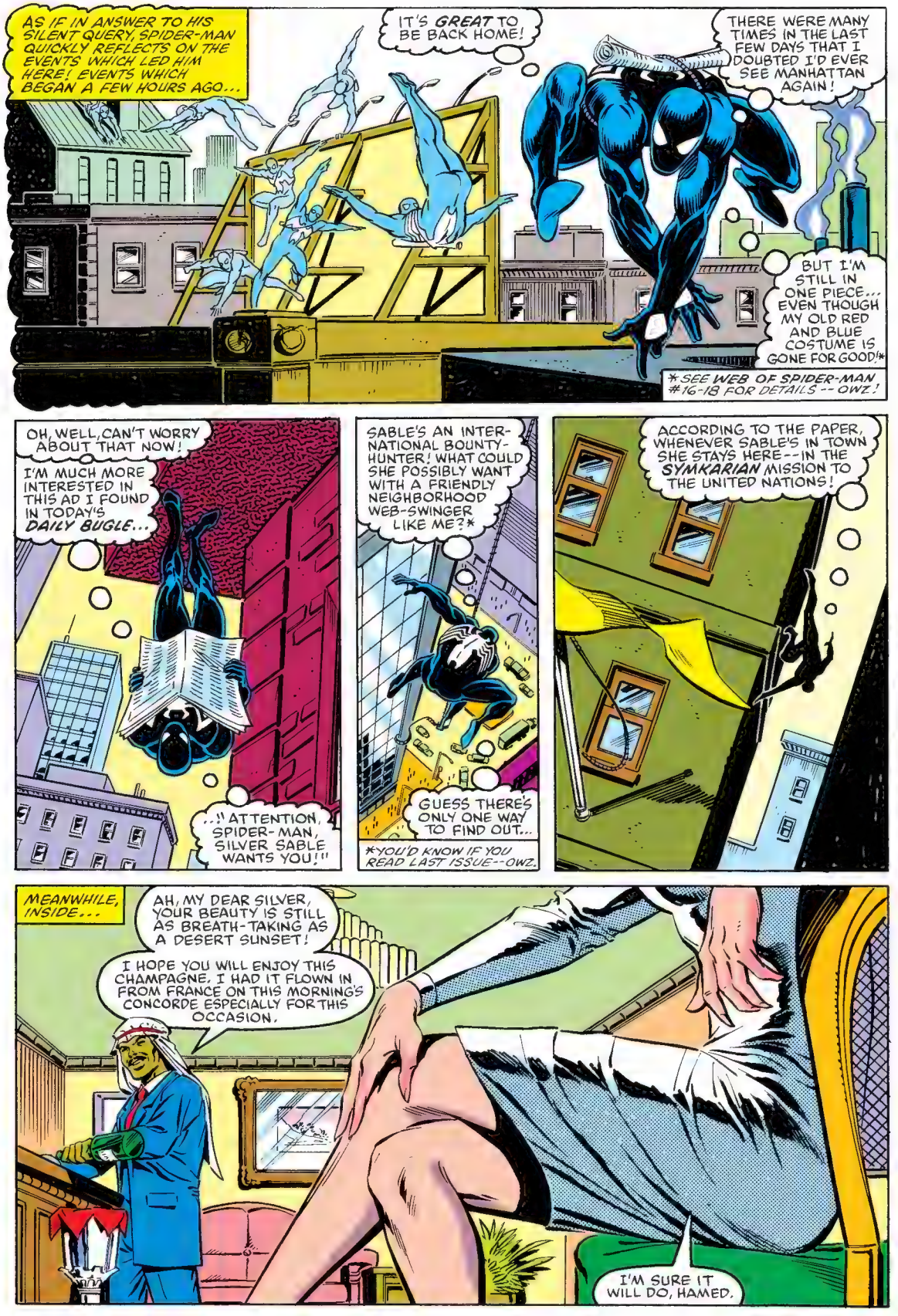
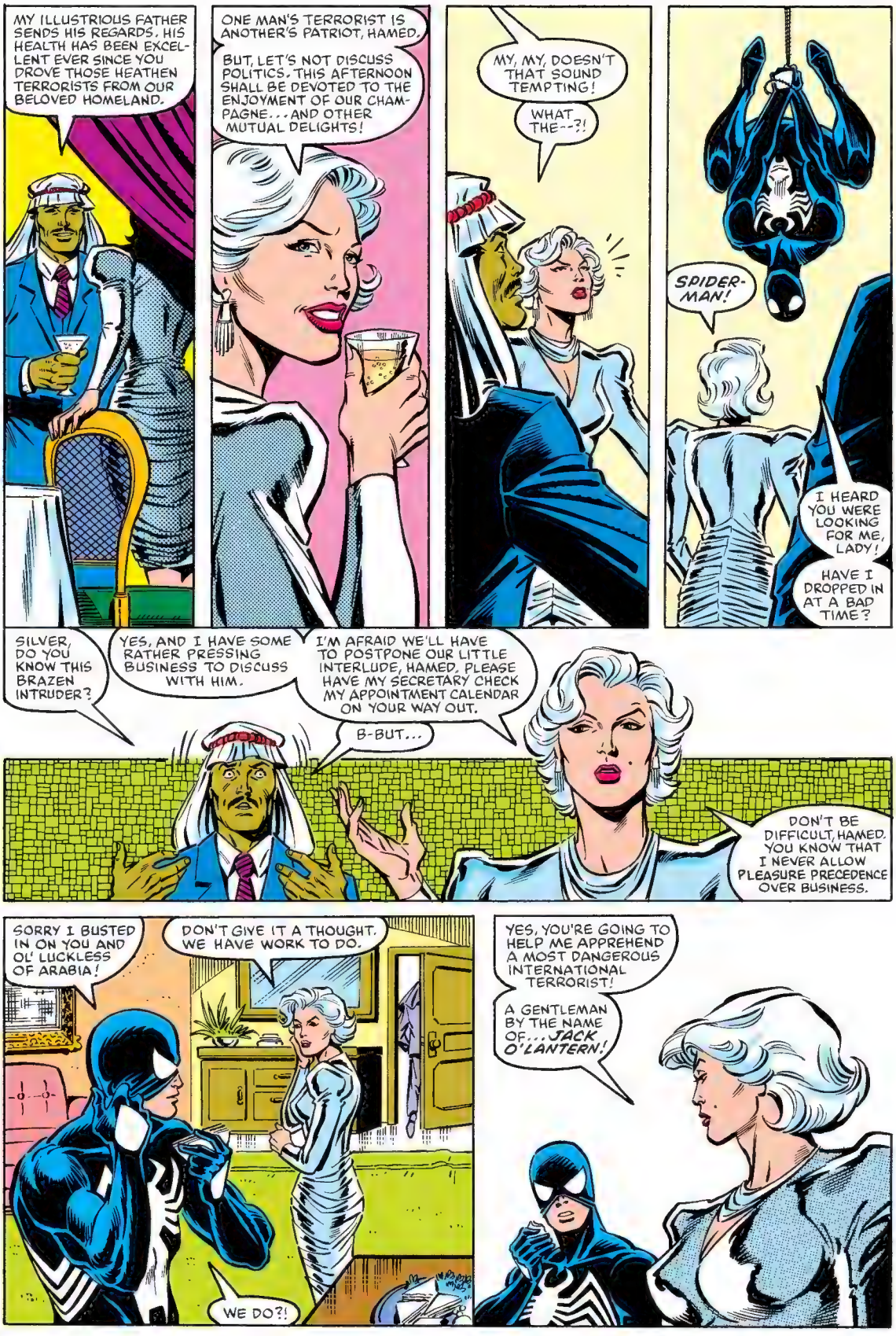
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
YOUR FATE IS SEALED, WEB-SWINGER!
FEEL THE WRATH OF THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!
GUEST-STARRING THE SENSATIONAL SILVER SABLE!™
FRENZ/BREEDING


STAN LEE PRESENTS...
SPIDER-MAN
INTRODUCING
THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!
THE TIME: NOW! THE PLACE: CONEY ISLAND PARK! THE OBJECT: MURDER!!
SILVER SABLE! LOOK OUT!!
BWAM!
BWAM!
WHAT THE--?!
CONFUSED, FAITHFUL READER? DON'T BE! JUST TURN THIS PULSATING PAGE, AND ALL WILL SOON BE EXPLAINED!
BWAM!
TOM DeFALCO WRITER
RON FRENZ LAYOUTS
BRETT BREEDING PENCILS/INKS
JOE ROSEN LETTERING
PAUL J. BECTON COLORING
JIM OWSLEY EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF


INCREDIBLE! EVEN WITH ME IN HIS ARMS, HE MANAGED A TWENTY FOOT LEAP!
THAT REALLY WASN'T NECESSARY, SPIDER-MAN.
I COULD HAVE SAVED MYSELF!
LISTEN, LADY, YOU MAY BE HOT STUFF ON THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNTY HUNTING CIRCUIT--
--BUT, YOU'RE STRICTLY A BEGINNER WHEN IT COMES TO AVOIDING THE ELECTRO-BLASTS OF A SUPER-BADDIE LIKE THE BEETLE!
I'VE FOUND THEM!
THEY'RE ON THE ROOF OF THIS BUILDING!
DON'T SWEAT IT, PAL! I'LL KNOCK 'EM OFF!
THE BUILDING AIN'T BEEN BUILT THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE SUPER-POWERED CHARGE OF THE RHINO!
YOU WANT TO BE ON YOUR OWN, LADY? BE MY GUEST...
JUMP!!
BWOOM!
BARELY MANAGED TO REACH THIS WHIRLY-GIG!
PERHAPS, I WAS A BIT HASTY IN CHASTISING THE WEB-SWINGER.
BWAM!
THAT BLAST! IT CAME FROM ABOVE--!
I KNEW THAT A PROFESSIONAL AS SKILLED AS YOU COULD EASILY SURVIVE AN ATTACK BY A LUMBERING OAF LIKE THE RHINO!
TOO BAD YOU'RE NOW FACING A TRUE CRAFTSMAN IN THE ART OF ASSASSINATION!
NO ONE ESCAPES BOOMERANG!

SOUNDS LIKE SABLE'S IN TROUBLE!
SO AM I FOR THAT MATTER!
HOLD STILL, BLAST YOU!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, BEETLE!
SPIDER-MAN IS MUCH TOO QUICK AND AGILE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!
BUT, HE'S PRACTICALLY MOVING IN SLOW MOTION WHEN COMPARED TO THE SPEED DEMON!
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO RUN A WHOLE LOT FASTER THAN ME, BUT I CAN CERTAINLY LEAP HIGHER THAN YOU!
DON'T GET TOO COCKY, SPEEDY!
NYAH! NYAH! YOU CAN'T REACH ME UP HERE!
MAYBE HE CAN'T, BUT I CAN!!
PWAM!
-UGNN- THAT WATERY FIST CAUGHT ME IN MID-LEAP!
COULDN'T AVOID IT IN TIME, EVEN THOUGH MY SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME IT WAS COMING!
FWOP!
IT'S ALL OVER NOW, WALL-CRAWLER!
YOU AIN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST US!
THE BEETLE, THE RHINO, BOOMERANG, SPEED DEMON, AND NOW... HYDRO-MAN!
WHAT IS THIS... OLD VILLAINS' WEEK?!
HOW'D I EVER GET INVOLVED IN A MESS LIKE THIS?

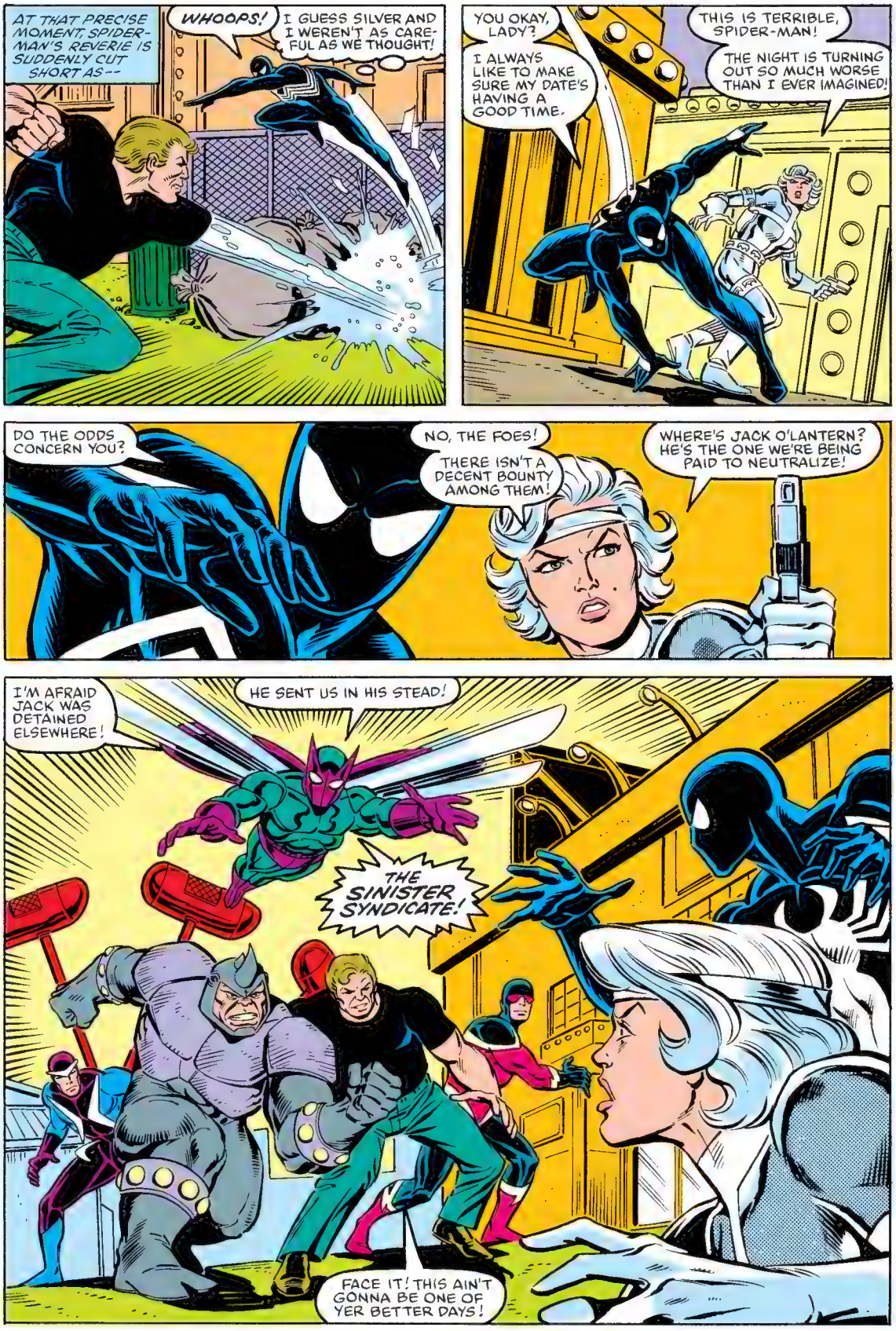

AS IF IN ANSWER TO HIS SILENT QUERY, SPIDER-MAN QUICKLY REFLECTS ON THE EVENTS WHICH LED HIM HERE! EVENTS WHICH BEGAN A FEW HOURS AGO...
IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK HOME!
THERE WERE MANY TIMES IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT I DOUBTED I'D EVER SEE MANHATTAN AGAIN!
BUT I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE... EVEN THOUGH MY OLD RED AND BLUE COSTUME IS GONE FOR GOOD!*
*SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #16-18 FOR DETAILS -- OWZ!
OH, WELL, CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
I'M MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN THIS AD I FOUND IN TODAY'S DAILY BUGLE...
..! ATTENTION, SPIDER-MAN, SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!"
SABLE'S AN INTERNATIONAL BOUNTY-HUNTER! WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY WANT WITH A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SWINGER LIKE ME?*
GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...
*YOU'D KNOW IF YOU READ LAST ISSUE--OWZ.
ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, WHENEVER SABLE'S IN TOWN SHE STAYS HERE--IN THE SYMKARIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE...
AH, MY DEAR SILVER, YOUR BEAUTY IS STILL AS BREATH-TAKING AS A DESERT SUNSET!
I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THIS CHAMPAGNE. I HAD IT FLOWN IN FROM FRANCE ON THIS MORNING'S CONCORDE ESPECIALLY FOR THIS OCCASION.
I'M SURE IT WILL DO, HAMED.

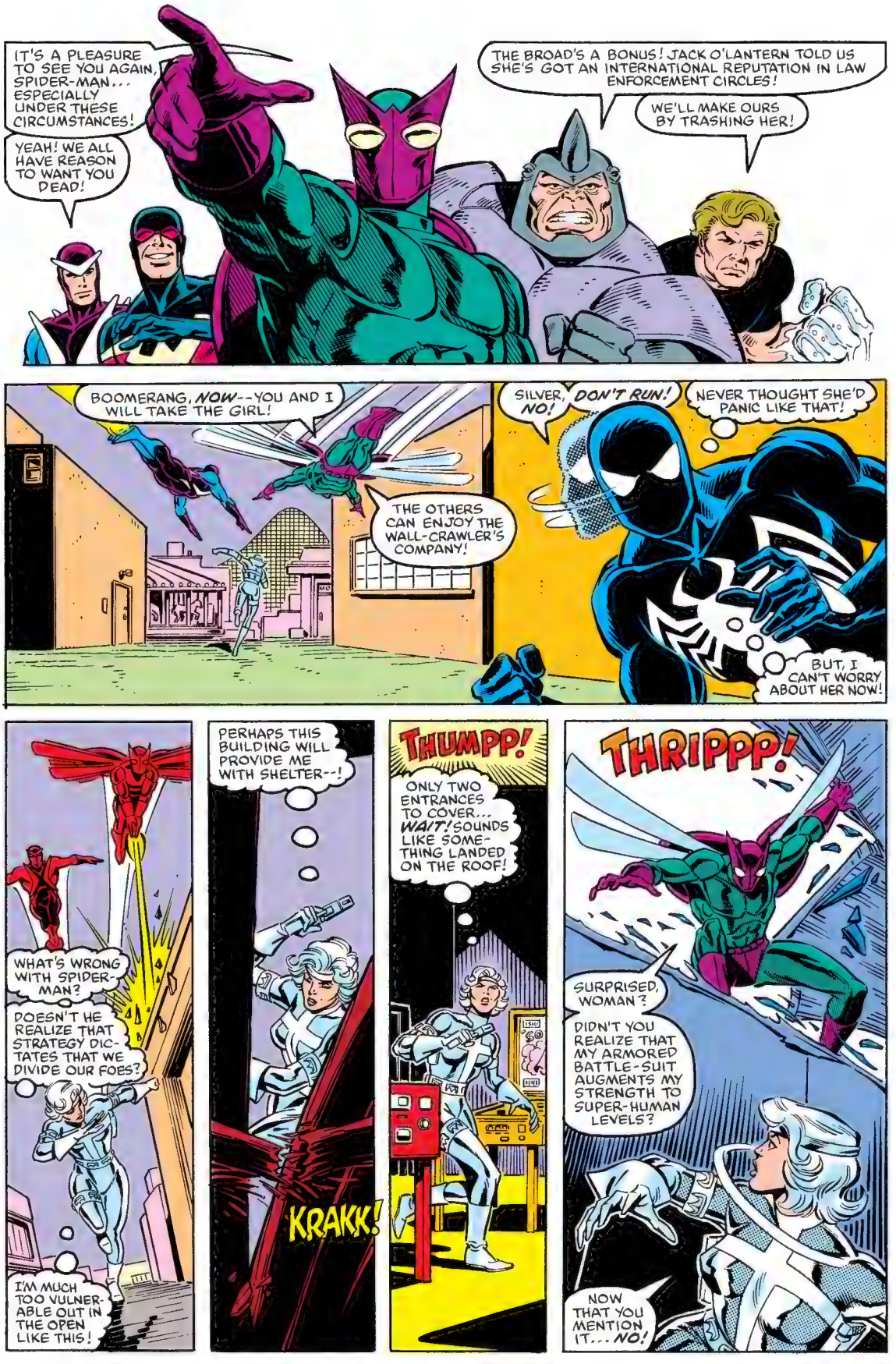

MY ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER SENDS HIS REGARDS. HIS HEALTH HAS BEEN EXCELLENT EVER SINCE YOU DROVE THOSE HEATHEN TERRORISTS FROM OUR BELOVED HOMELAND.
ONE MAN'S TERRORIST IS ANOTHER'S PATRIOT, HAMED.
BUT, LET'S NOT DISCUSS POLITICS. THIS AFTERNOON SHALL BE DEVOTED TO THE ENJOYMENT OF OUR CHAMPAGNE... AND OTHER MUTUAL DELIGHTS!
MY, MY, DOESN'T THAT SOUND TEMPTING!
WHAT THE--?!
SPIDER-MAN!
I HEARD YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME, LADY!
HAVE I DROPPED IN AT A BAD TIME?
SILVER, DO YOU KNOW THIS BRAZEN INTRUDER?
YES, AND I HAVE SOME RATHER PRESSING BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR LITTLE INTERLUDE, HAMED, PLEASE HAVE MY SECRETARY CHECK MY APPOINTMENT CALENDAR ON YOUR WAY OUT.
B-BUT...
DON'T BE DIFFICULT, HAMED. YOU KNOW THAT I NEVER ALLOW PLEASURE PRECEDENCE OVER BUSINESS.
SORRY I BUSTED IN ON YOU AND OL' LUCKLESS OF ARABIA!
DON'T GIVE IT A THOUGHT. WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
WE DO?!
YES, YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME APPREHEND A MOST DANGEROUS INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST!
A GENTLEMAN BY THE NAME OF... JACK O'LANTERN!

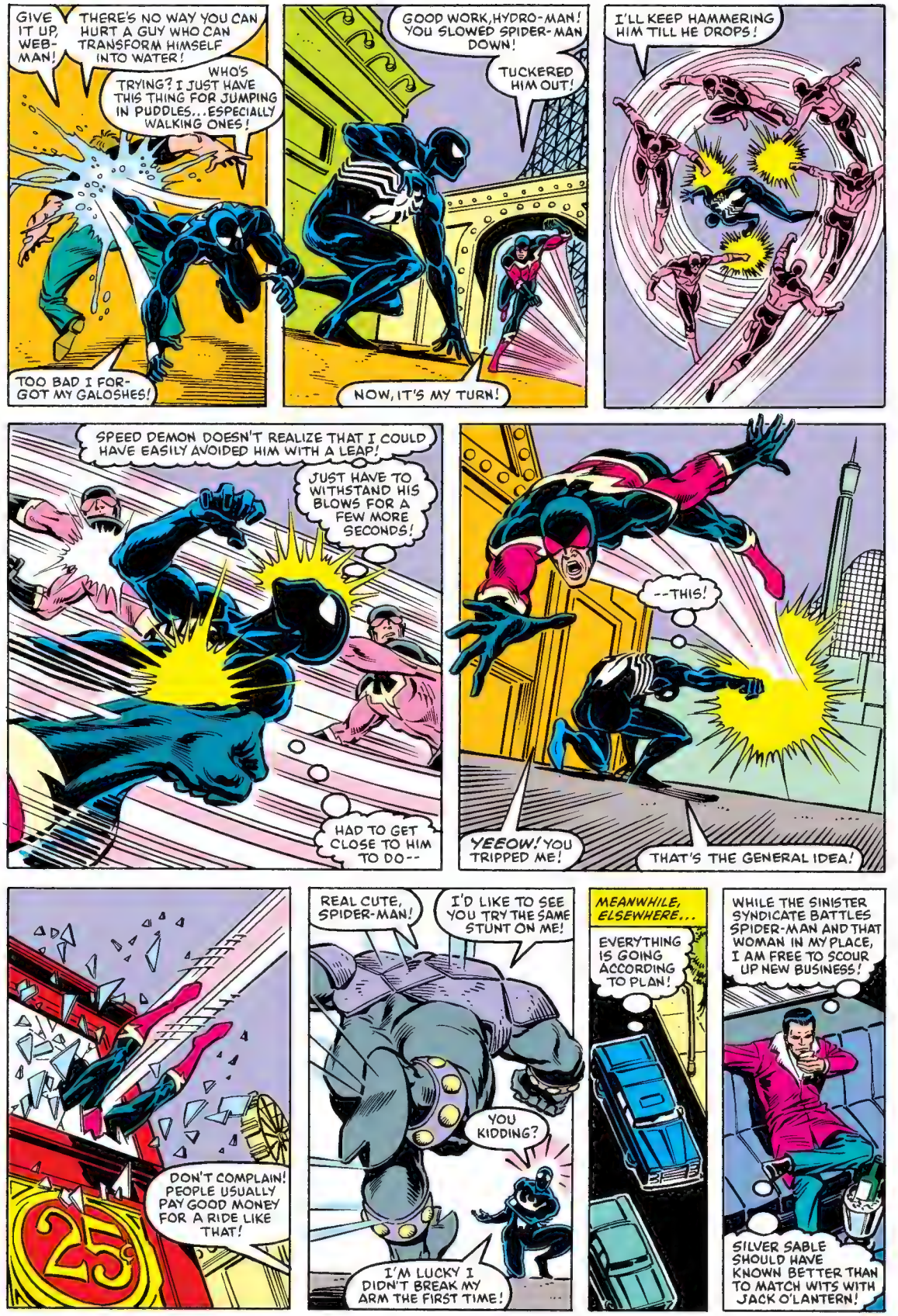
SILVER DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I RECENTLY DECIDED TO GIVE UP BEING SPIDER-MAN!* I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE MY CURIOSITY GOT THE BEST OF ME!
WHY ME? WHY NOT THE AVENGERS, OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
*SEE ISSUE #275--OWZ!
THEY DON'T APPROVE OF MERCENARIES LIKE ME!
I FULLY INTEND TO COLLECT A HEFTY REWARD FOR CAPTURING JACK!
FAREWELL, HAMED! PERHAPS NEXT TIME...
OF COURSE, I SHALL PAY YOU A SUBSTANTIAL FEE... IN CASH!
FORGET IT, LADY! I'M NOT FOR HIRE!
WHY NOT?
YOU'VE BATTLED JACK O'LANTERN IN THE PAST! WHY NOT BE PAID FOR YOUR EFFORTS?
I DON'T FIGHT FOR MONEY!
WHY DO YOU?
BECAUSE...ER... BECAUSE...
NEVER MIND! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
LATER, AT THE POLICE PRECINCT WHICH HOLDS FLASH THOMPSON, ONE OF PETER PARKER'S OLDEST FRIENDS, AND NOW ACCUSED COSTUMED KILLER...
I'M DESPERATE, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP!
THE POLICE ARE HOLDING ME HERE BECAUSE THEY'RE CONVINCED I'M THE HOBGOBLIN!
SOME LUNATIC EVEN TRIED TO KILL ME A FEW DAYS AGO!*
SHA SHAN, MY LAWYER SAYS THAT I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR TESTIMONY TO BEAT THIS RAP! CAN I COUNT ON YOU?
I COULDN'T COUNT ON YOU, FLASH!
*SEE ISSUE #278--OWZ!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I LOVED YOU, FLASH! DEVOTED MYSELF TO YOU!
AND YOU BETRAYED ME BY SEEING THAT LEEDS WOMAN BEHIND MY BACK!
SHA SHAN, YOU CAN'T KEEP PUNISHING ME FOR THAT ONE MISTAKE!
I NEED YOU, GIRL!
THEY'RE GONNA CONVICT ME!
PLEASE, BABY, DON'T TURN AGAINST ME NOW!
TIME'S UP, THOMPSON! YOU HAVE ANOTHER VISITOR!
MRS. LEEDS, YOU'RE NEXT...
OH, GREAT, WHY DID BETTY LEEDS HAVE TO SHOW UP NOW?
SHA SHAN? I'M SHARON BANKS, FLASH'S LAWYER. CAN WE TALK?
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU, MISS BANKS.
FLASH IS GETTING EXACTLY WHAT HE DESERVES!
I HOPE THEY THROW AWAY THE KEY!
SHE'D MAKE A SWELL WITNESS... FOR THE PROSECUTION!
HI, MS. BANKS! HOW'S FLASH'S DEFENSE SHAPING UP?
YOU WANT THE TRUTH, PARKER...OR SHOULD I FAKE OPTIMISM?
I CAN'T EVEN GET HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND TO VOUCH FOR HIM--
--AND SHE WAS LIVING WITH HIM DURING THE TIME HE WAS ALLEGEDLY THE HOBGOBLIN!

A GOOD DEFENSE COSTS BIG MONEY, AND I JUST DON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO PROVIDE FLASH WITH THE KIND HE'LL NEED!
I'D LOVE TO HIRE AN ARMY OF DETECTIVES TO SEARCH FOR THE REAL HOBGOBLIN, BUT WHO'D FOOT THE BILL?
FLASH COULD REALLY USE A GUARDIAN ANGEL RIGHT NOW!
A RICH ONE!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
MAY AS WELL FACE FACTS...
I CAN'T HANG UP MY WEBS WHILE FLASH STILL NEEDS ME!
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S REALLY THE HOBGOBLIN, OR NOT! I DON'T EVEN CARE!
HE'S MY FRIEND, AND I'VE GOT TO DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY TO HELP HIM!
AND SO...
I'M SO PLEASED THAT YOU DECIDED TO RECONSIDER MY OFFER!
MAY I ASK WHY?
LET'S JUST SAY THAT I FOUND A USE FOR YOUR MONEY!
AN EXCELLENT REASON!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE CAN FIND JACK O'LANTERN?
HE'LL BE AT THE CONEY ISLAND PARK AT MIDNIGHT!
HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD! HOW'D YOU LEARN THAT? DETECTIVE WORK? DOUBLE AGENTS?
ACTUALLY, HE PHONED AND TOLD ME!
ARE YOU CRAZY?
HE'S OBVIOUSLY PLANNING A TRAP!
OBVIOUSLY! WHY ELSE WOULD I WANT YOU ALONG?
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL, WON'T WE?*
*SEE! I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING WOULD BE EXPLAINED AS WE WENT ALONG-- HONEST OWZ!


AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, SPIDER-MAN'S REVERIE IS SUDDENLY CUT SHORT AS--
WHOOPS!
I GUESS SILVER AND I WEREN'T AS CAREFUL AS WE THOUGHT!
YOU OKAY, LADY?
I ALWAYS LIKE TO MAKE SURE MY DATE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME.
THIS IS TERRIBLE, SPIDER-MAN!
THE NIGHT IS TURNING OUT SO MUCH WORSE THAN I EVER IMAGINED!
DO THE ODDS CONCERN YOU?
NO, THE FOES!
THERE ISN'T A DECENT BOUNTY AMONG THEM!
WHERE'S JACK O'LANTERN? HE'S THE ONE WE'RE BEING PAID TO NEUTRALIZE!
I'M AFRAID JACK WAS DETAINED ELSEWHERE!
HE SENT US IN HIS STEAD!
THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!
FACE IT! THIS AIN'T GONNA BE ONE OF YER BETTER DAYS!

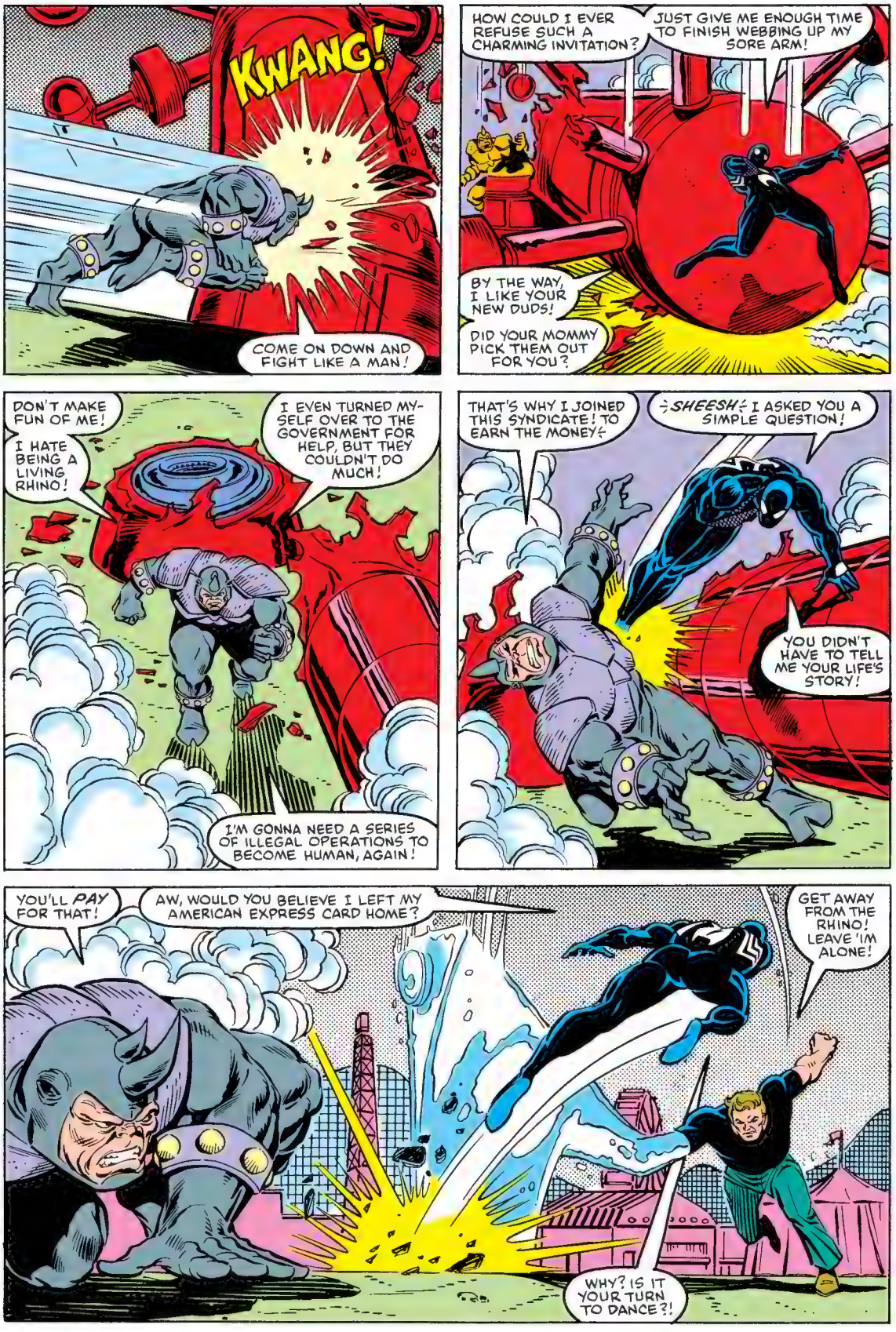

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SPIDER-MAN... ESPECIALLY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES!
YEAH! WE ALL HAVE REASON TO WANT YOU DEAD!
THE BROAD'S A BONUS! JACK O'LANTERN TOLD US SHE'S GOT AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CIRCLES!
WE'LL MAKE OURS BY TRASHING HER!
BOOMERANG, NOW--YOU AND I WILL TAKE THE GIRL!
THE OTHERS CAN ENJOY THE WALL-CRAWLER'S COMPANY!
SILVER, NO! DON'T RUN!
NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D PANIC LIKE THAT!
BUT, I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HER NOW!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SPIDER-MAN?
DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT STRATEGY DICTATES THAT WE DIVIDE OUR FOES?
I'M MUCH TOO VULNERABLE OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS!
PERHAPS THIS BUILDING WILL PROVIDE ME WITH SHELTER--!
KRAKK!
THUMPP!
ONLY TWO ENTRANCES TO COVER... WAIT! SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING LANDED ON THE ROOF!
THRIPPP!
SURPRISED, WOMAN?
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT MY ARMORED BATTLE-SUIT AUGMENTS MY STRENGTH TO SUPER-HUMAN LEVELS?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... NO!

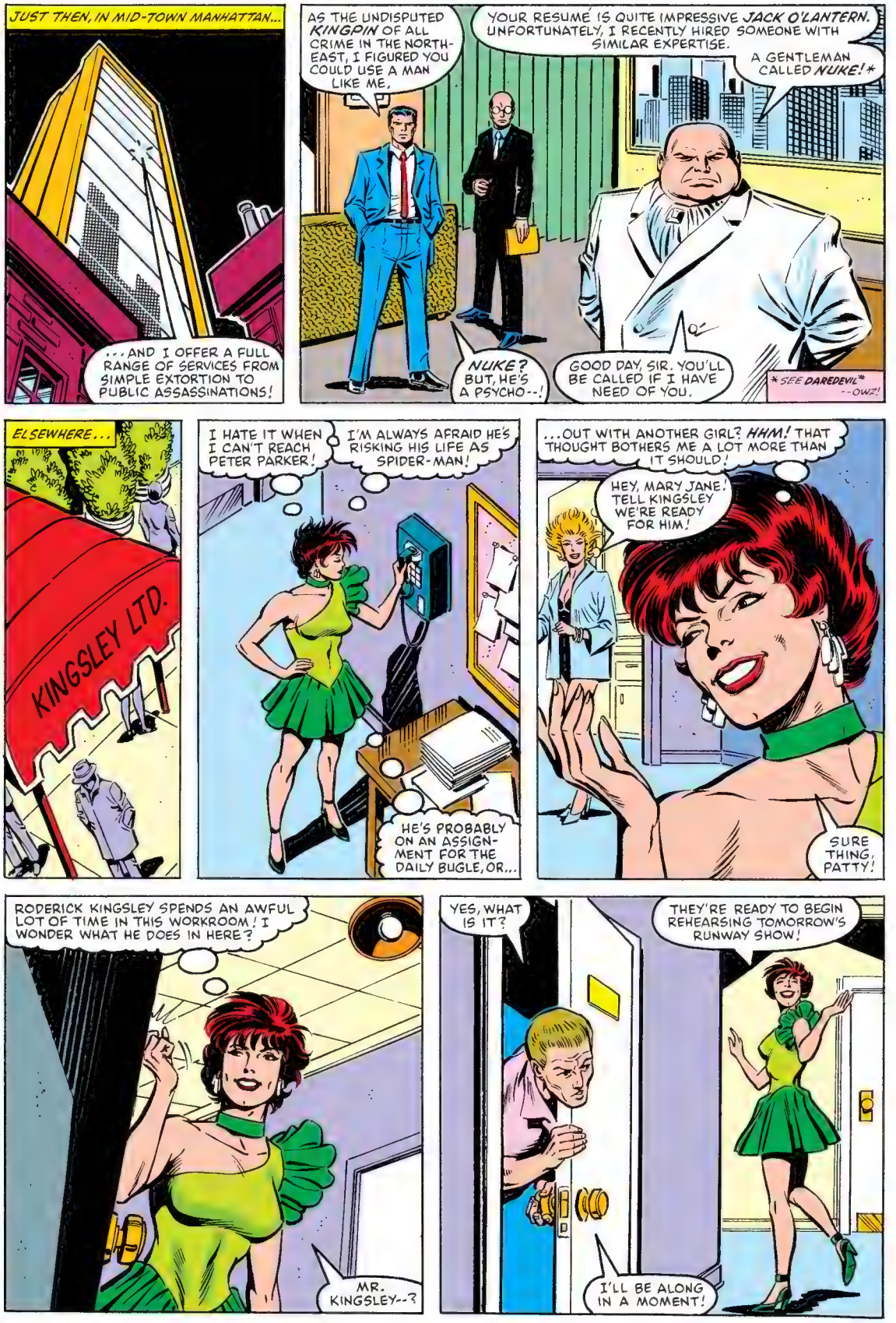

GIVE IT UP, WEB-MAN!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN HURT A GUY WHO CAN TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO WATER!
WHO'S TRYING? I JUST HAVE THIS THING FOR JUMPING IN PUDDLES... ESPECIALLY WALKING ONES!
TOO BAD I FORGOT MY GALOSHES!
GOOD WORK, HYDRO-MAN! YOU SLOWED SPIDER-MAN DOWN!
TUCKERED HIM OUT!
NOW, IT'S MY TURN!
I'LL KEEP HAMMERING HIM TILL HE DROPS!
SPEED DEMON DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I COULD HAVE EASILY AVOIDED HIM WITH A LEAP!
JUST HAVE TO WITHSTAND HIS BLOWS FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS!
HAD TO GET CLOSE TO HIM TO DO--
--THIS!
YEEOW! YOU TRIPPED ME!
THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA!
DON'T COMPLAIN! PEOPLE USUALLY PAY GOOD MONEY FOR A RIDE LIKE THAT!
REAL CUTE, SPIDER-MAN!
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY THE SAME STUNT ON ME!
YOU KIDDING?
I'M LUCKY I DIDN'T BREAK MY ARM THE FIRST TIME!
MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...
EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!
WHILE THE SINISTER SYNDICATE BATTLES SPIDER-MAN AND THAT WOMAN IN MY PLACE, I AM FREE TO SCOUR UP NEW BUSINESS!
SILVER SABLE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO MATCH WITS WITH JACK O'LANTERN!

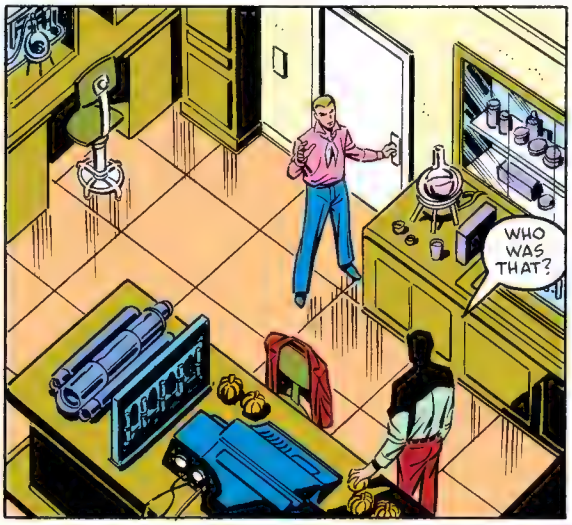
AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, A PENSIVE BETTY LEEDS SLOWLY WALKS HOME...
NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO SHA SHAN AT THE POLICE STATION!
THAT LOOK SHE SHOT ME WAS PURE HATRED!
CAN I BLAME HER?
THE PAIN--THE HUMILIATION--I MUST HAVE CAUSED HER!
I NEVER STOPPED TO CONSIDER THAT WHILE FLASH AND I WERE DATING! I WAS TOO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN PROBLEMS!
TORN BETWEEN ATTRACTION FOR FLASH AND LOYALTY TO MY HUSBAND, NED!
MOMENTS LATER, AS BETTY NEARS HER APARTMENT BUILDING SHE IS STARTLED TO SEE...
NED?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, BETTY! I'M TIRED OF WAITING AROUND WHILE YOU DECIDE BETWEEN ME, AND THAT CRIMINAL FLASH THOMPSON!
THE MAN'S IN JAIL, AND YOU STILL CAN'T MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
NED, WAIT--!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW! WHAT ABOUT OUR MARRIAGE?
DOESN'T IT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?!
MUCH MORE THAN IT OBVIOUSLY MEANS TO YOU!
CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY THAT I AM THE MAN YOU LOVE?
I DIDN'T THINK SO!
I LOVE YOU NED. I REALLY DO.
MAYBE I JUST DON'T LOVE YOU ENOUGH.

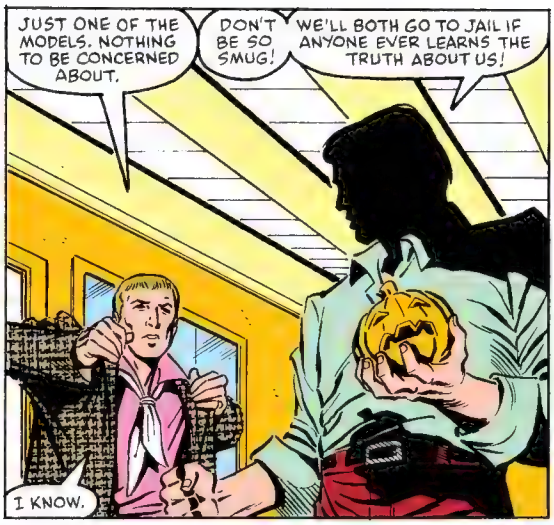
JUST THEN, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM CONEY ISLAND PARK...
...AT 122-14 SOUTH MARTIN STREET, BROOKLYN.
I'M GONNA GO HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS!
BE HOME EARLY, CARLOS!
AW, MOM--!
DINNER WAS GREAT, MRS. CASSADA...LIKE ALWAYS!
CAN I HELP WITH THE DISHES?
YOU ALREADY DO TOO MUCH AROUND THIS HOUSE, MR. MANN!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX WITH MY HUSBAND AND MICHAEL?
I THINK I'LL GET SOME FRESH AIR INSTEAD!
I REALLY ENJOY WALKING ALONG THE BEACH AT NIGHT!
TAKING IN AN UPSTAIRS BOARDER WASN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA! EH, ROBERTO?
WE WERE LUCKY, ROSA! MOST TENANTS AREN'T AS POLITE, AND AS WELL-BEHAVED AS...
"...SYLVESTER MANN!"
NEVER THOUGHT I'D END UP IN THE SUBURBS!
THINGS HAVE BEEN A WHOLE LOT QUIETER FOR ME EVER SINCE I STOPPED STOMPING AROUND THE COUNTRY AS--
--THE SANDMAN!
I'M SO GLAD I GAVE UP THAT PART OF MY LIFE!
CONTENTMENT FILLS THE FACE OF THE FORMER SUPER-VILLAIN.
UNFORTUNATELY, HIS PEACEFUL EXISTENCE WILL SOON END...

MEANWHILE...
WHERE IS SHE?
I'D HEARD SABLE WAS REAL GOOD, BUT EVEN I'M SURPRISED SHE GOT AWAY FROM THE BEETLE!
MAYBE THAT'LL CONVINCE THE OTHERS THAT I SHOULD BE LEADER!
SHE'S NEARBY! I CAN ALMOST FEEL HER--
--PRESENCE!
PHWAM!
IS THIS WHAT PASSES FOR A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN IN THIS COUNTRY?
PERHAPS I SHOULD PURSUE MORE AMERICAN CRIMINALS!
I AM NOT TOTALLY DISPLEASED THAT YOU TOOK OUT BOOMERANG!
THE BEETLE!
YOU SAVED ME THE TROUBLE OF CUTTING HIM DOWN A FEW PEGS!
HE'S ABOVE ME, TO THE RIGHT!
BDAM!
BDAM!
YOUR REFLEXES ARE QUITE IMPRESSIVE!
YOUR WEAPONRY IS NOT!
I'M VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE WHEN ENCASED IN THIS BATTLE ARMOR!
IT'S A TECHNOLOGICAL MARVEL! A WORK OF MY OWN PURE GENIUS!
KEEP BRAGGING! YOU'RE ONLY GIVING ME MORE TIME TO DEVISE A WAY TO DEFEAT YOU!


KWANG!
COME ON DOWN AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!
HOW COULD I EVER REFUSE SUCH A CHARMING INVITATION?
JUST GIVE ME ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH WEBBING UP MY SORE ARM!
BY THE WAY, I LIKE YOUR NEW DUDS!
DID YOUR MOMMY PICK THEM OUT FOR YOU?
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
I HATE BEING A LIVING RHINO!
I EVEN TURNED MYSELF OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR HELP, BUT THEY COULDN'T DO MUCH!
I'M GONNA NEED A SERIES OF ILLEGAL OPERATIONS TO BECOME HUMAN, AGAIN!
THAT'S WHY I JOINED THIS SYNDICATE! TO EARN THE MONEY!
÷SHEESH÷ I ASKED YOU A SIMPLE QUESTION!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL ME YOUR LIFE'S STORY!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!
AW, WOULD YOU BELIEVE I LEFT MY AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD HOME?
GET AWAY FROM THE RHINO! LEAVE 'IM ALONE!
WHY? IS IT YOUR TURN TO DANCE?!


JUST THEN, IN MID-TOWN MANHATTAN...
...AND I OFFER A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES FROM SIMPLE EXTORTION TO PUBLIC ASSASSINATIONS!
AS THE UNDISPUTED KINGPIN OF ALL CRIME IN THE NORTH-EAST, I FIGURED YOU COULD USE A MAN LIKE ME,
YOUR RESUMÉ IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE JACK O'LANTERN. UNFORTUNATELY, I RECENTLY HIRED SOMEONE WITH SIMILAR EXPERTISE.
A GENTLEMAN CALLED NUKE!*
NUKE? BUT, HE'S A PSYCHO--!
GOOD DAY, SIR. YOU'LL BE CALLED IF I HAVE NEED OF YOU.
* SEE DAREDEVIL #181 --OWZ!
ELSEWHERE...
KINGSLEY LTD.
I HATE IT WHEN I CAN'T REACH PETER PARKER!
I'M ALWAYS AFRAID HE'S RISKING HIS LIFE AS SPIDER-MAN!
HE'S PROBABLY ON AN ASSIGN-MENT FOR THE DAILY BUGLE, OR...
...OUT WITH ANOTHER GIRL? HMM! THAT THOUGHT BOTHERS ME A LOT MORE THAN IT SHOULD!
HEY, MARY JANE! TELL KINGSLEY WE'RE READY FOR HIM!
SURE THING, PATTY!
RODERICK KINGSLEY SPENDS AN AWFUL LOT OF TIME IN THIS WORKROOM! I WONDER WHAT HE DOES IN HERE?
MR. KINGSLEY--?
YES, WHAT IS IT?
THEY'RE READY TO BEGIN REHEARSING TOMORROW'S RUNWAY SHOW!
I'LL BE ALONG IN A MOMENT!

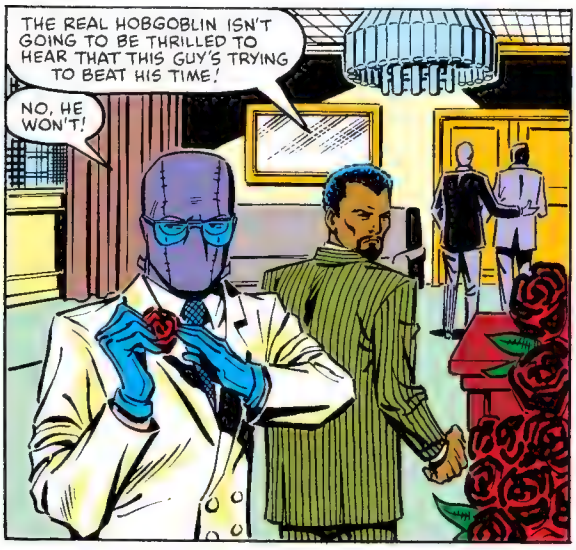

WHO WAS THAT?


JUST ONE OF THE MODELS. NOTHING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT.
DON'T BE SO SMUG!
WE'LL BOTH GO TO JAIL IF ANYONE EVER LEARNS THE TRUTH ABOUT US!
I KNOW.

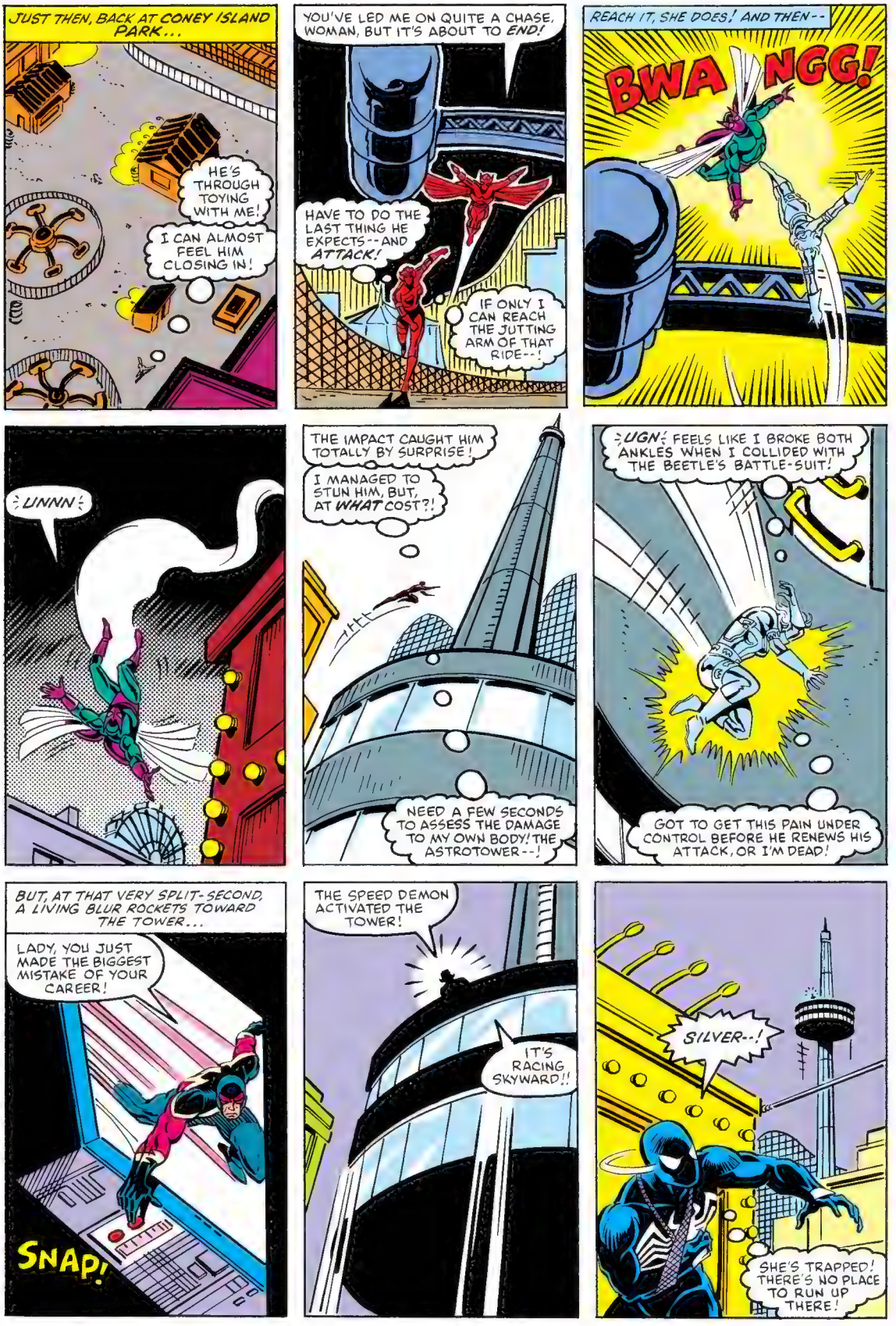
SOMETIME LATER, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...
AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU AND THE HOBGOBLIN HAD A "BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT"...

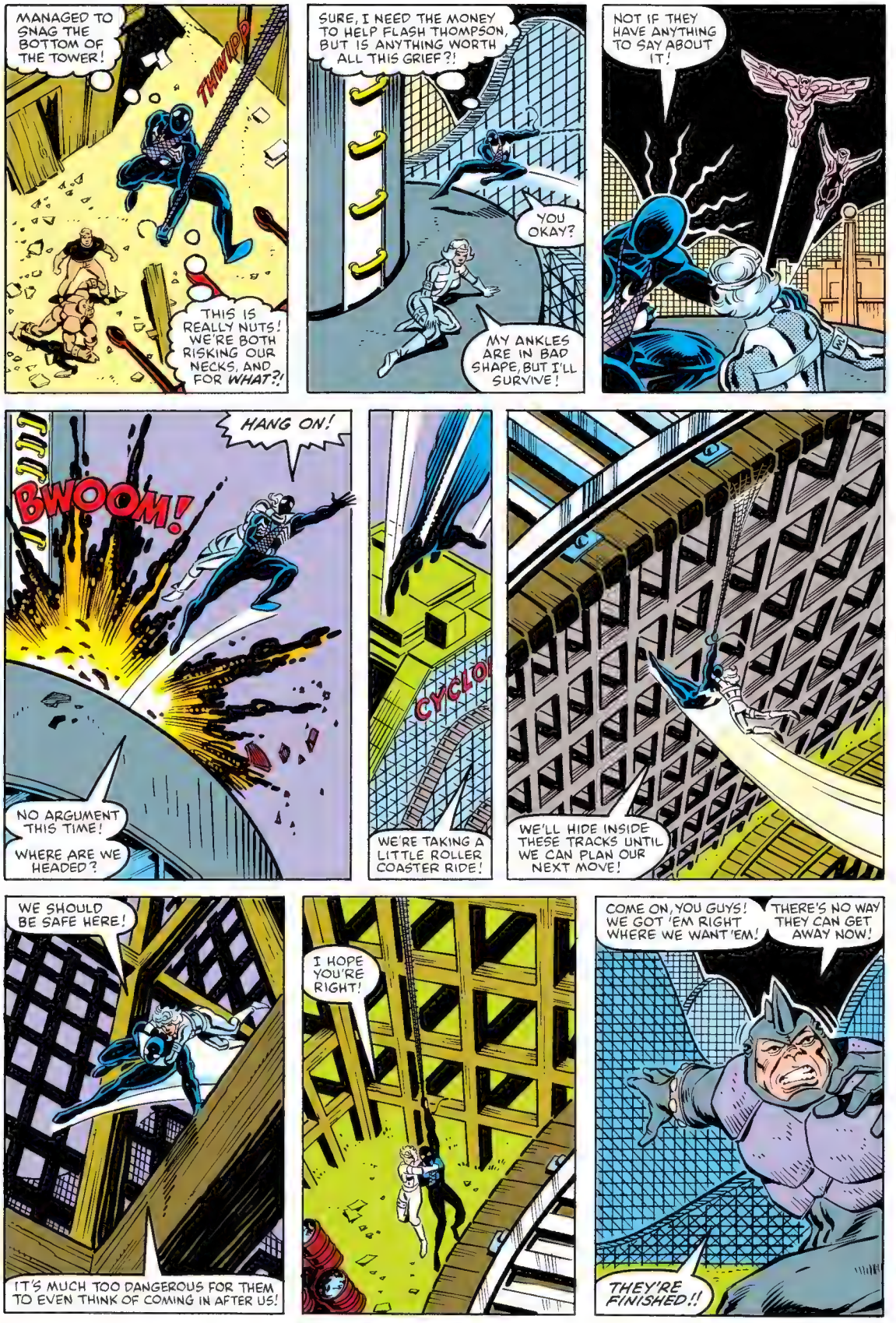
HOW DOES THAT CONCERN YOU, MISTER--?
JACK WILL DO. WHAT SHALL I CALL YOU?
I AM KNOWN AS THE ROSE!

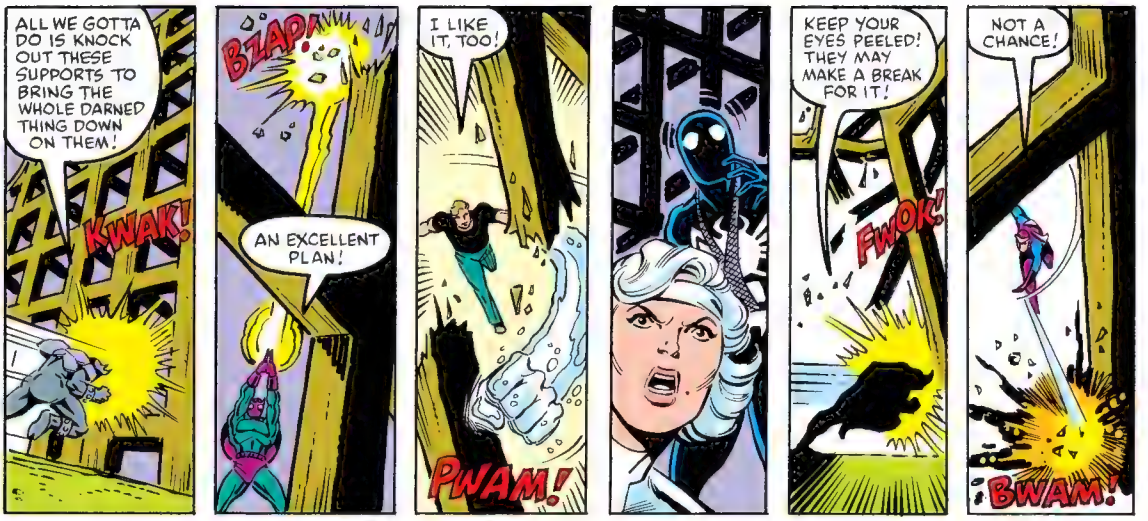
YEAH, WELL, FOR A REASONABLE FEE I COULD BUST HOBGOBLIN OUT OF JAIL...
OR, I COULD TAKE HIS PLACE!
AN INTRIGUING PROPOSITION. ALLOW ME TO CONSIDER IT.

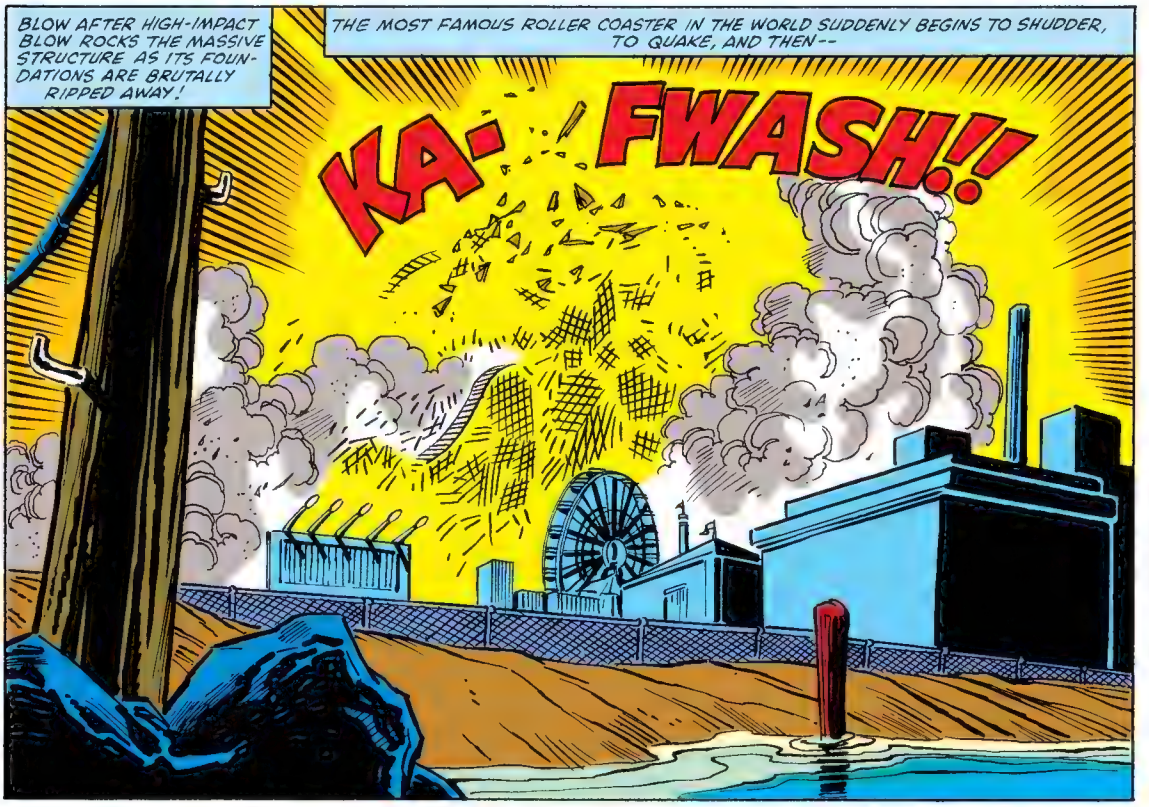

THE REAL HOBGOBLIN ISN'T GOING TO BE THRILLED TO HEAR THAT THIS GUY'S TRYING TO BEAT HIS TIME!
NO, HE WON'T!

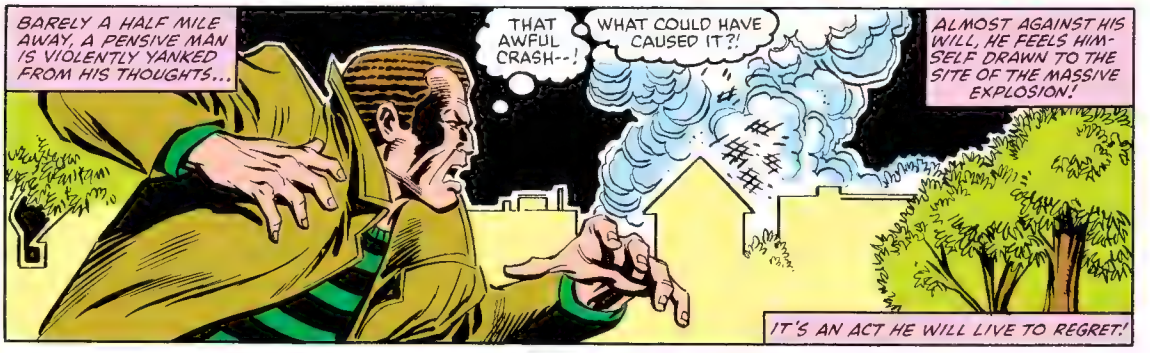
I'M CERTAIN I CAN USE THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE.
IT WOULD BE SUCH A PITY IF THE TWO OF THEM ACCIDENTALLY KILLED EACH OTHER IN BATTLE!


JUST THEN, BACK AT CONEY ISLAND PARK...
HE'S THROUGH TOYING WITH ME!
I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIM CLOSING IN!
YOU'VE LED ME ON QUITE A CHASE, WOMAN, BUT IT'S ABOUT TO END!
HAVE TO DO THE LAST THING HE EXPECTS--AND ATTACK!
IF ONLY I CAN REACH THE JUTTING ARM OF THAT RIDE--!
REACH IT, SHE DOES! AND THEN--
BWA NGG!
:UNNN:
THE IMPACT CAUGHT HIM TOTALLY BY SURPRISE!
I MANAGED TO STUN HIM, BUT, AT WHAT COST?!
NEED A FEW SECONDS TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE TO MY OWN BODY! THE ASTROTOWER--!
:UGN: FEELS LIKE I BROKE BOTH ANKLES WHEN I COLLIDED WITH THE BEETLE'S BATTLE-SUIT!
GOT TO GET THIS PAIN UNDER CONTROL BEFORE HE RENEWS HIS ATTACK, OR I'M DEAD!
BUT, AT THAT VERY SPLIT-SECOND, A LIVING BLUR ROCKETS TOWARD THE TOWER...
LADY, YOU JUST MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR CAREER!
SNAP!
THE SPEED DEMON ACTIVATED THE TOWER!
IT'S RACING SKYWARD!!
SILVER--!
SHE'S TRAPPED! THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN UP THERE!

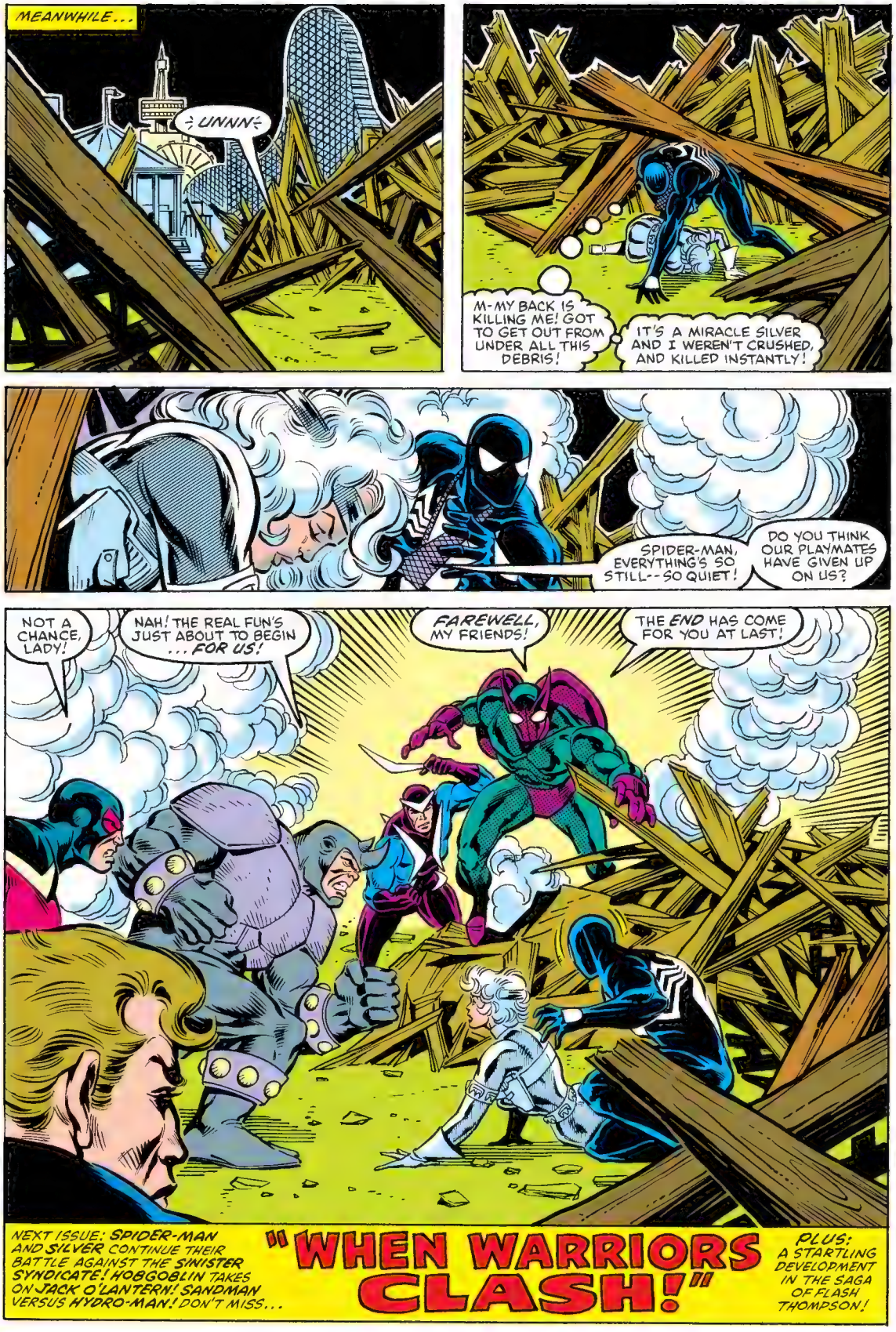

MANAGED TO SNAG THE BOTTOM OF THE TOWER!
THWIPP
THIS IS REALLY NUTS! WE'RE BOTH RISKING OUR NECKS, AND FOR WHAT?!
SURE, I NEED THE MONEY TO HELP FLASH THOMPSON, BUT IS ANYTHING WORTH ALL THIS GRIEF?!
YOU OKAY?
MY ANKLES ARE IN BAD SHAPE, BUT I'LL SURVIVE!
NOT IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
HANG ON!
BWOOM!
NO ARGUMENT THIS TIME!
WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
CYCLO
WE'RE TAKING A LITTLE ROLLER COASTER RIDE!
WE'LL HIDE INSIDE THESE TRACKS UNTIL WE CAN PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE!
WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE!
IT'S MUCH TOO DANGEROUS FOR THEM TO EVEN THINK OF COMING IN AFTER US!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!
COME ON, YOU GUYS! WE GOT 'EM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT 'EM!
THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN GET AWAY NOW!
THEY'RE FINISHED!!

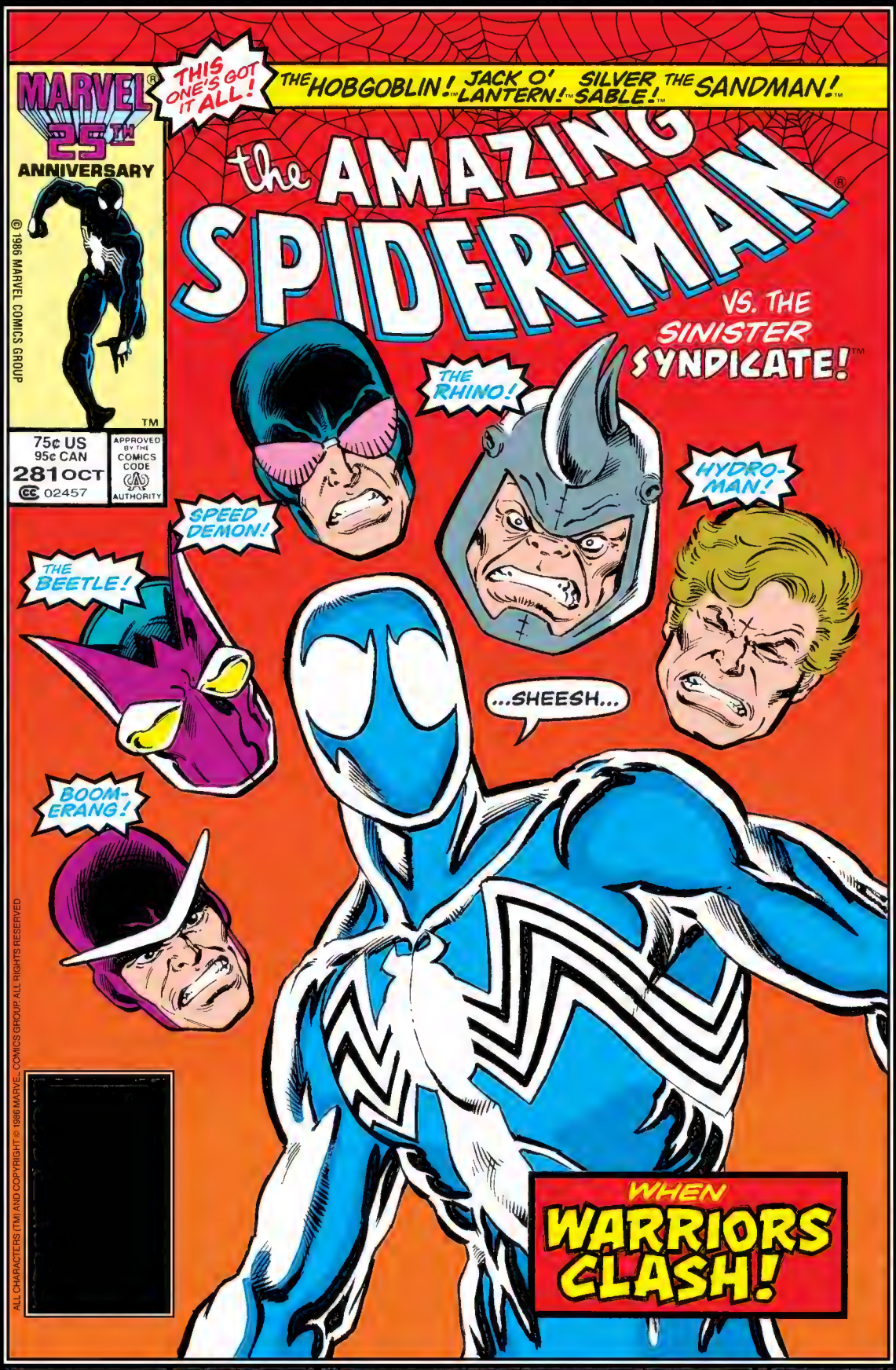

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS KNOCK OUT THESE SUPPORTS TO BRING THE WHOLE DARNED THING DOWN ON THEM!
KWAK!
BZAP!
AN EXCELLENT PLAN!
I LIKE IT, TOO!
PWAM!
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! THEY MAY MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!
FWOK!
NOT A CHANCE!
BWAM!


BLOW AFTER HIGH-IMPACT BLOW ROCKS THE MASSIVE STRUCTURE AS ITS FOUNDATIONS ARE BRUTALLY RIPPED AWAY!
THE MOST FAMOUS ROLLER COASTER IN THE WORLD SUDDENLY BEGINS TO SHUDDER, TO QUAKE, AND THEN--
KA-
FWASH!!


BARELY A HALF MILE AWAY, A PENSIVE MAN IS VIOLENTLY YANKED FROM HIS THOUGHTS...
THAT AWFUL CRASH--!
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT?!
ALMOST AGAINST HIS WILL, HE FEELS HIMSELF DRAWN TO THE SITE OF THE MASSIVE EXPLOSION!
IT'S AN ACT HE WILL LIVE TO REGRET!

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?
A CHARACTER BY THE NAME OF JACK O'LANTERN HAS BEEN NOSING AROUND FOR MY JOB?
DON'T WORRY! I CAN SAFELY ASSURE YOU THAT HE WON'T TROUBLE YOU, AGAIN!
YOU CAN COUNT ON THE WORD OF...THE HOBGOBLIN!
THE ROSE DOESN'T FOOL ME FOR A MOMENT!
IT'S REAL OBVIOUS THAT HE WANTS ME TO FIGHT JACK O'LANTERN!
PERHAPS HE'S HOPING THAT I'LL GET MYSELF KILLED SO THAT HE WON'T HAVE TO PAY ME MY SHARE OF THE PROFITS FROM OUR CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES!
I'M SURE IT WOULDN'T COME AS A SURPRISE TO THE ROSE TO LEARN THAT I HAVE SIMILAR PLANS FOR...
...HIM?!
WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO WE HAVE HERE!
YOU'RE USUALLY THE LAST PERSON I EXPECT TO RUN INTO ON THE STREET!
IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, MARY JANE!
ISN'T IT, THOUGH?
YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE INTO SOME PRETTY HEAVY THOUGHTS WHEN I POPPED UP!
I'M AFRAID THAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN RATHER CHAOTIC LATELY!
REALLY? TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!


MEANWHILE...
UNNN
M-MY BACK IS KILLING ME! GOT TO GET OUT FROM UNDER ALL THIS DEBRIS!
IT'S A MIRACLE SILVER AND I WEREN'T CRUSHED, AND KILLED INSTANTLY!
SPIDER-MAN, EVERYTHING'S SO STILL--SO QUIET!
DO YOU THINK OUR PLAYMATES HAVE GIVEN UP ON US?
NOT A CHANCE, LADY!
NAH! THE REAL FUN'S JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN ... FOR US!
FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS!
THE END HAS COME FOR YOU AT LAST!
NEXT ISSUE: SPIDER-MAN AND SILVER CONTINUE THEIR BATTLE AGAINST THE SINISTER SYNDICATE! HOBGOBLIN TAKES ON JACK O'LANTERN! SANDMAN VERSUS HYDRO-MAN! DON'T MISS...
"WHEN WARRIORS CLASH!"
PLUS: A STARTLING DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAGA OF FLASH THOMPSON!


MARVEL
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
THIS ONE'S GOT IT ALL!
THE HOBGOBLIN!™ JACK O' LANTERN!™ SILVER SABLE!™ THE SANDMAN!™
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
VS. THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!™
THE RHINO!
HYDRO-MAN!
SPEED DEMON!
THE BEETLE!
...SHEESH...
BOOM-ERANG!
WHEN WARRIORS CLASH!
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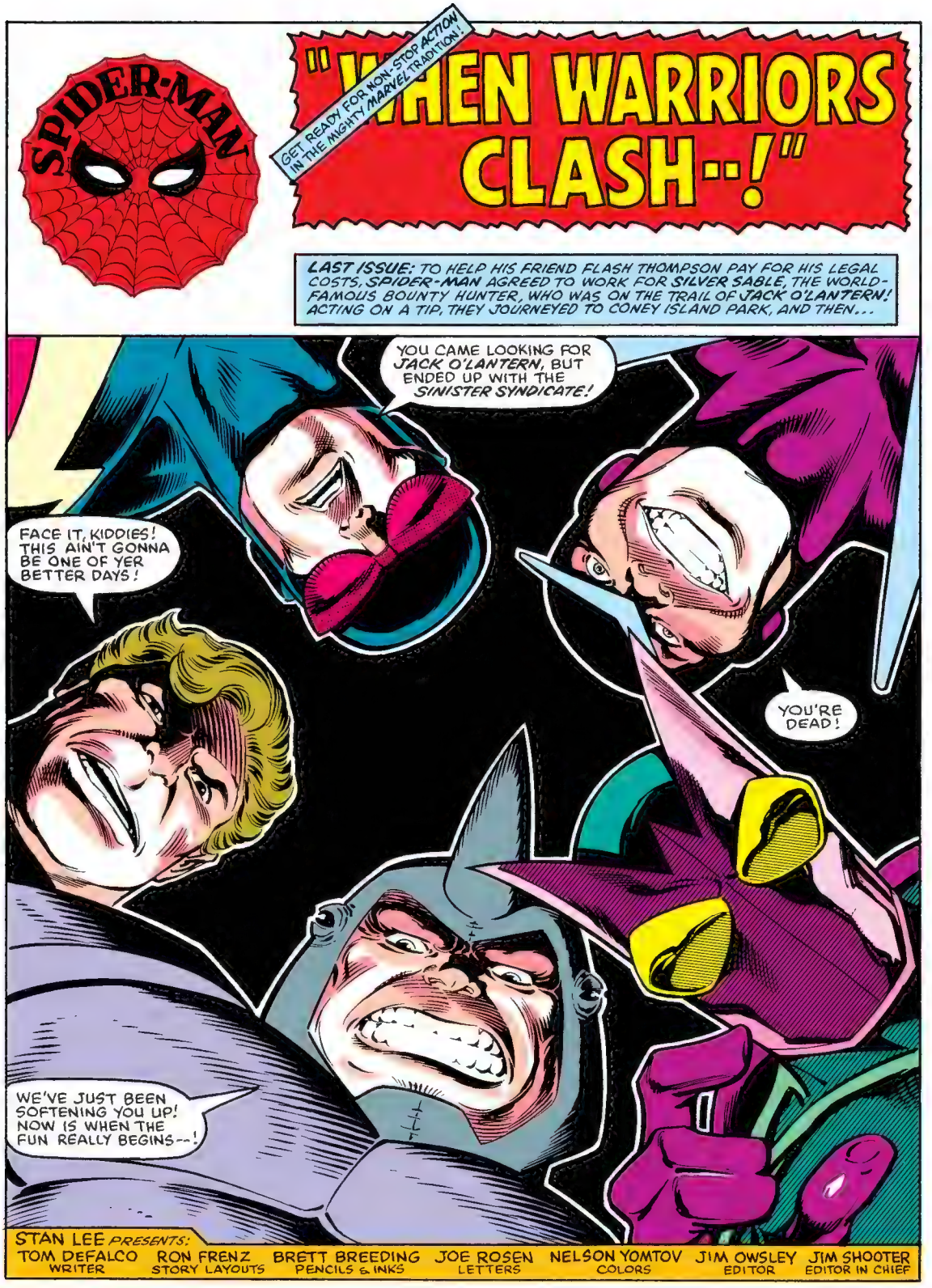
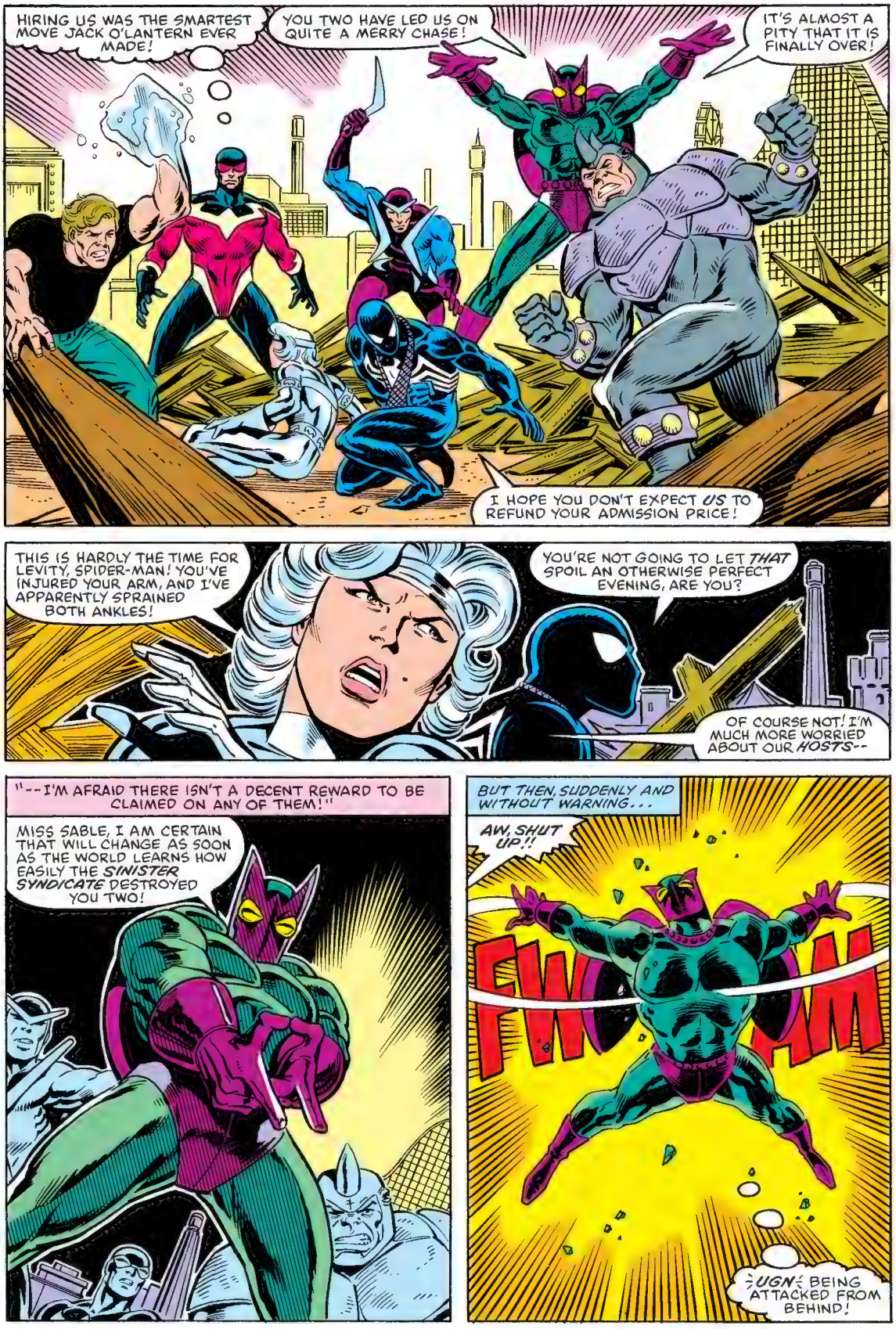
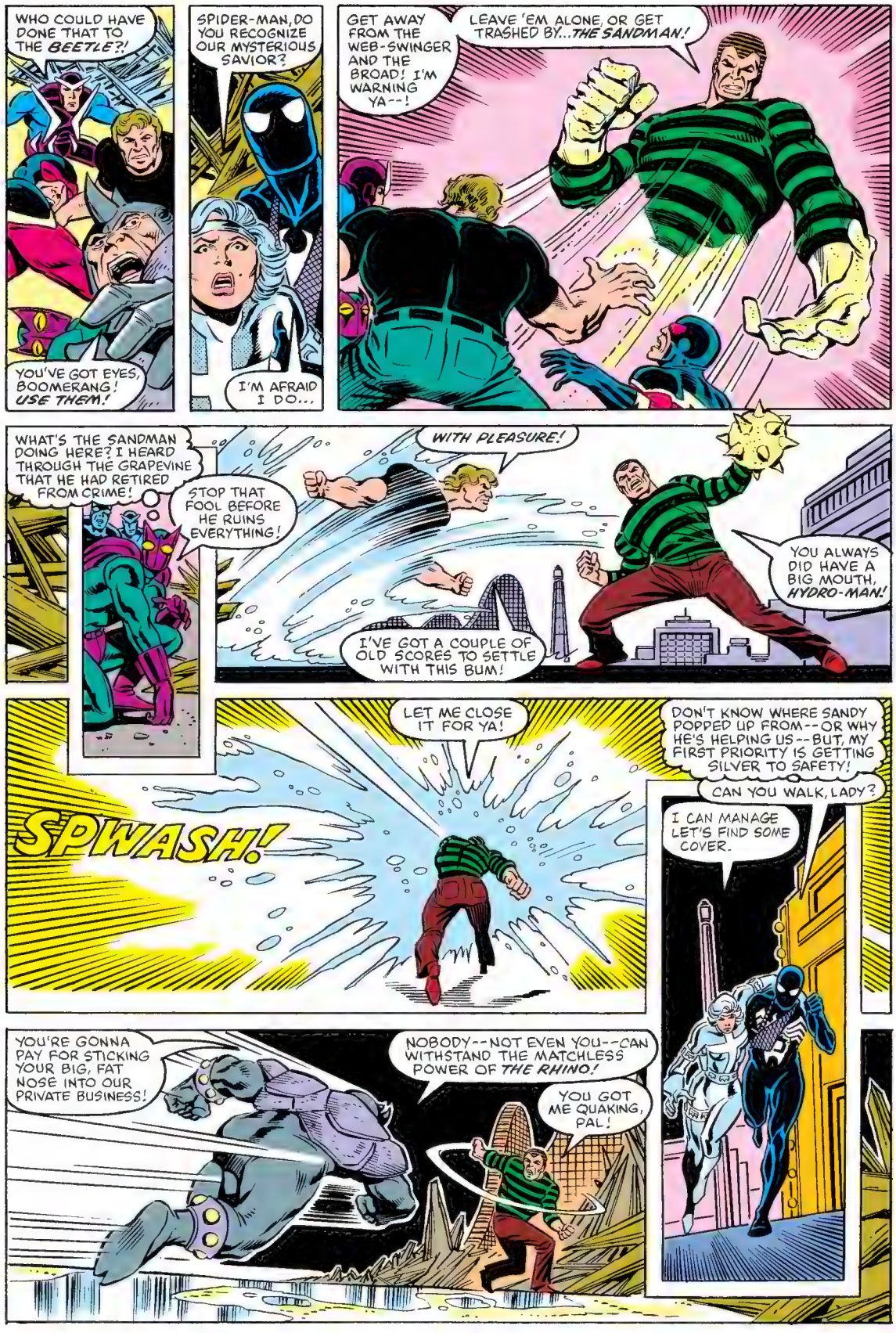
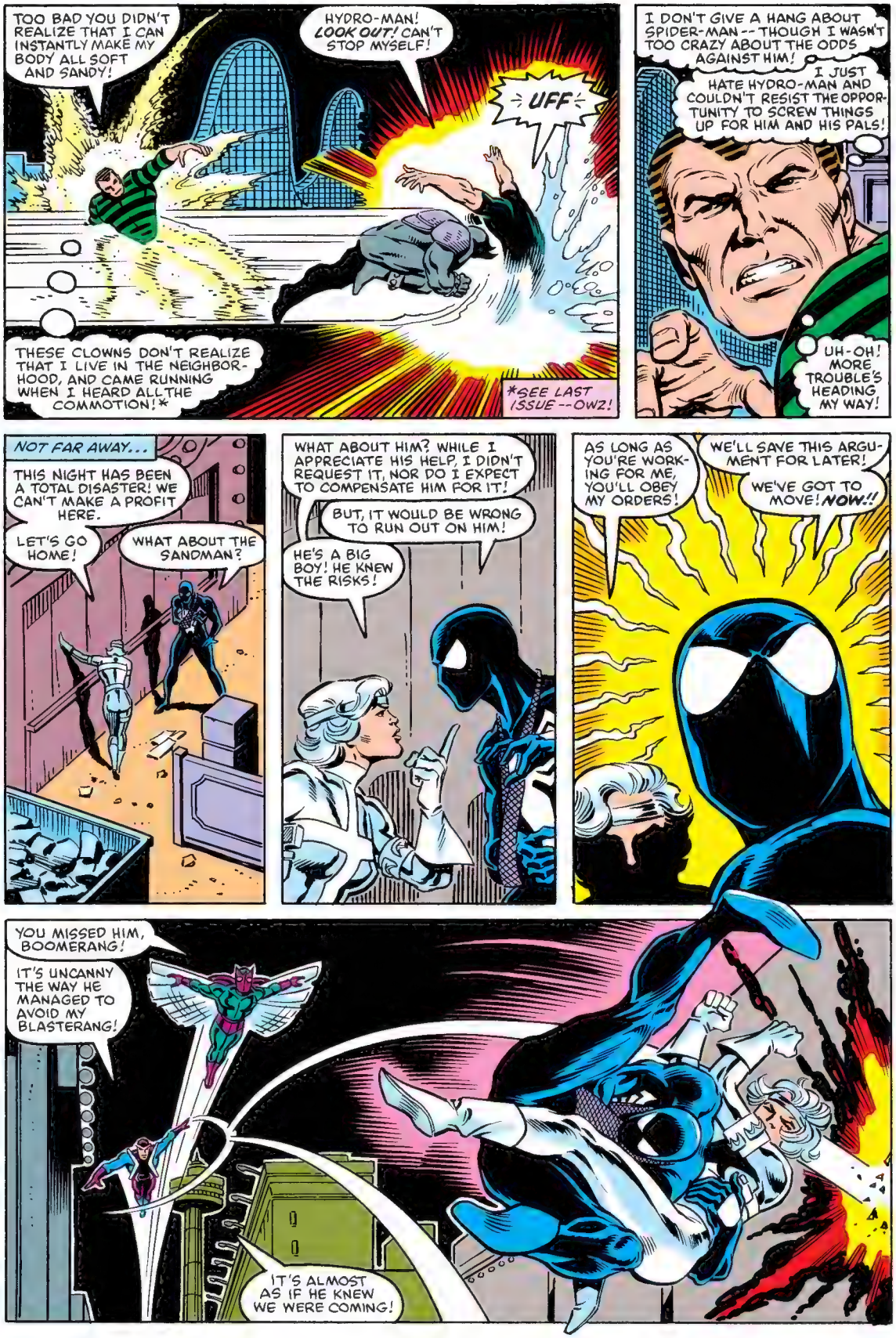
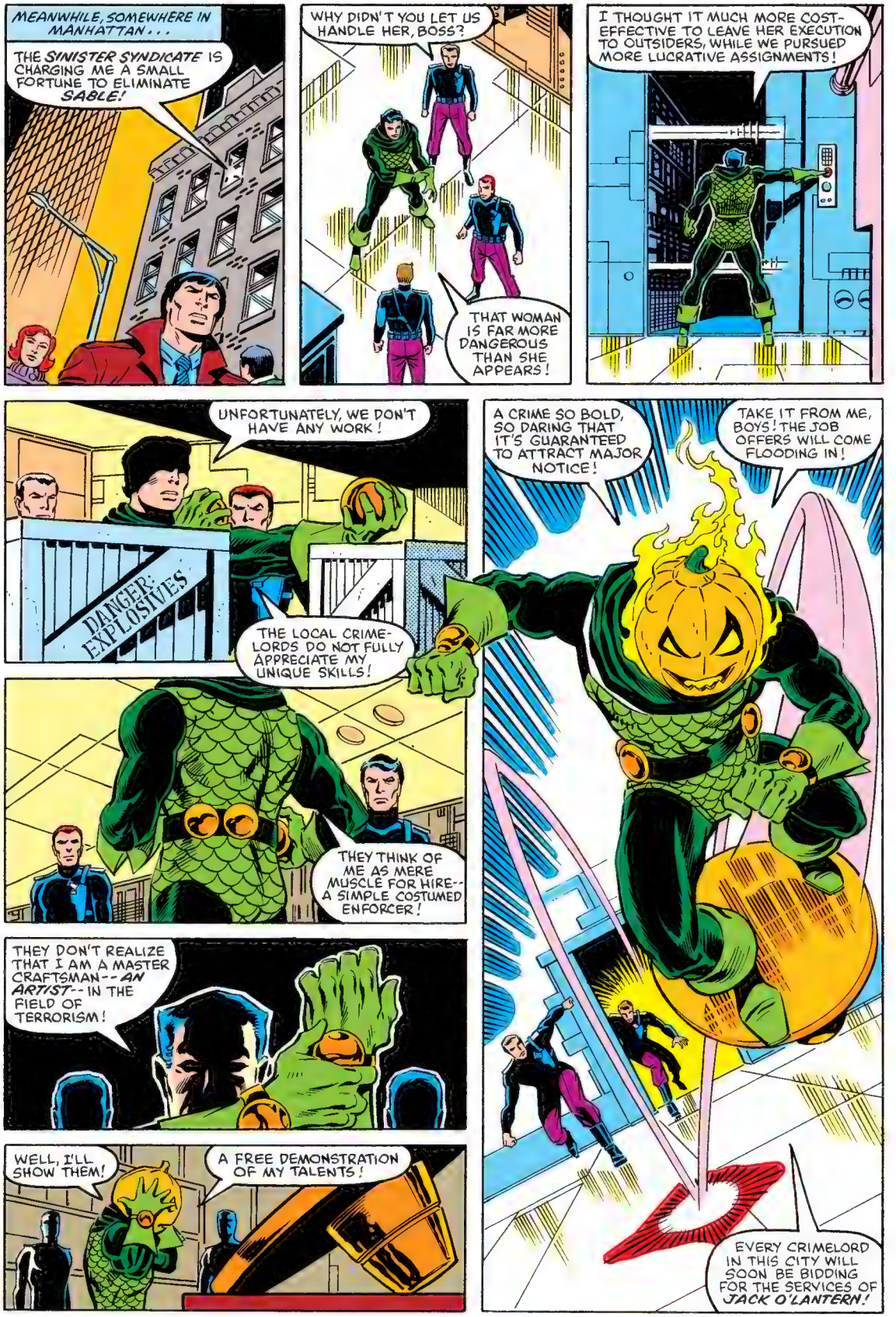

SPIDER-MAN
GET READY FOR NON-STOP ACTION IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL TRADITION!
"WHEN WARRIORS CLASH--!"
LAST ISSUE: TO HELP HIS FRIEND FLASH THOMPSON PAY FOR HIS LEGAL COSTS, SPIDER-MAN AGREED TO WORK FOR SILVER SABLE, THE WORLD-FAMOUS BOUNTY HUNTER, WHO WAS ON THE TRAIL OF JACK O'LANTERN! ACTING ON A TIP, THEY JOURNEYED TO CONEY ISLAND PARK, AND THEN...
YOU CAME LOOKING FOR JACK O'LANTERN, BUT ENDED UP WITH THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!
FACE IT, KIDDIES! THIS AIN'T GONNA BE ONE OF YER BETTER DAYS!
YOU'RE DEAD!
WE'VE JUST BEEN SOFTENING YOU UP! NOW IS WHEN THE FUN REALLY BEGINS--!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO WRITER
RON FRENZ STORY LAYOUTS
BRETT BREEDING PENCILS & INKS
JOE ROSEN LETTERS
NELSON YOMTOV COLORS
JIM OWSLEY EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

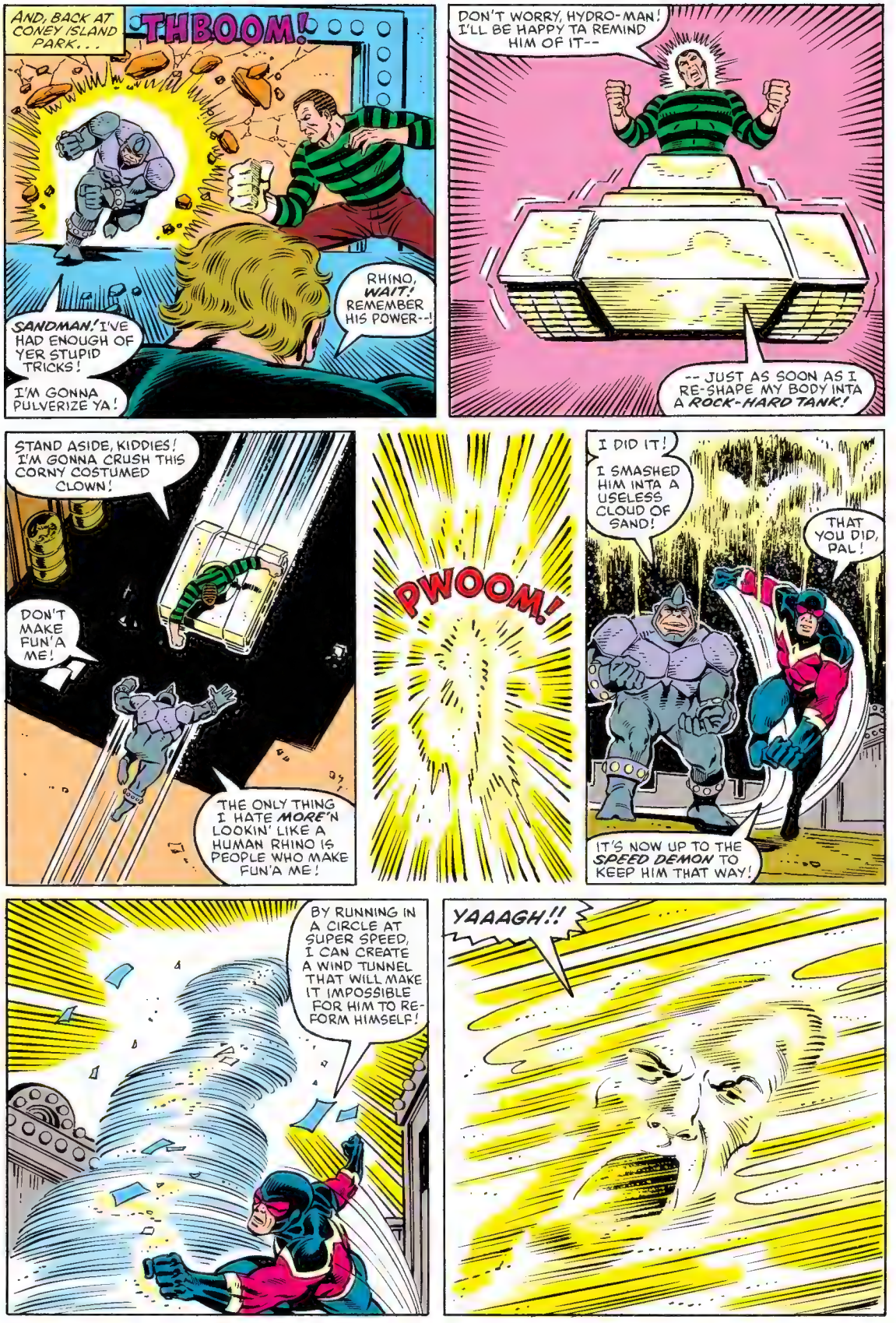

HIRING US WAS THE SMARTEST MOVE JACK O'LANTERN EVER MADE!
YOU TWO HAVE LED US ON QUITE A MERRY CHASE!
IT'S ALMOST A PITY THAT IT IS FINALLY OVER!
I HOPE YOU DON'T EXPECT US TO REFUND YOUR ADMISSION PRICE!
THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME FOR LEVITY, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'VE INJURED YOUR ARM, AND I'VE APPARENTLY SPRAINED BOTH ANKLES!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET THAT SPOIL AN OTHERWISE PERFECT EVENING, ARE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT! I'M MUCH MORE WORRIED ABOUT OUR HOSTS--
"--I'M AFRAID THERE ISN'T A DECENT REWARD TO BE CLAIMED ON ANY OF THEM!"
MISS SABLE, I AM CERTAIN THAT WILL CHANGE AS SOON AS THE WORLD LEARNS HOW EASILY THE SINISTER SYNDICATE DESTROYED YOU TWO!
BUT THEN, SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING...
AW, SHUT UP!!
FWOOM
UGH! BEING ATTACKED FROM BEHIND!

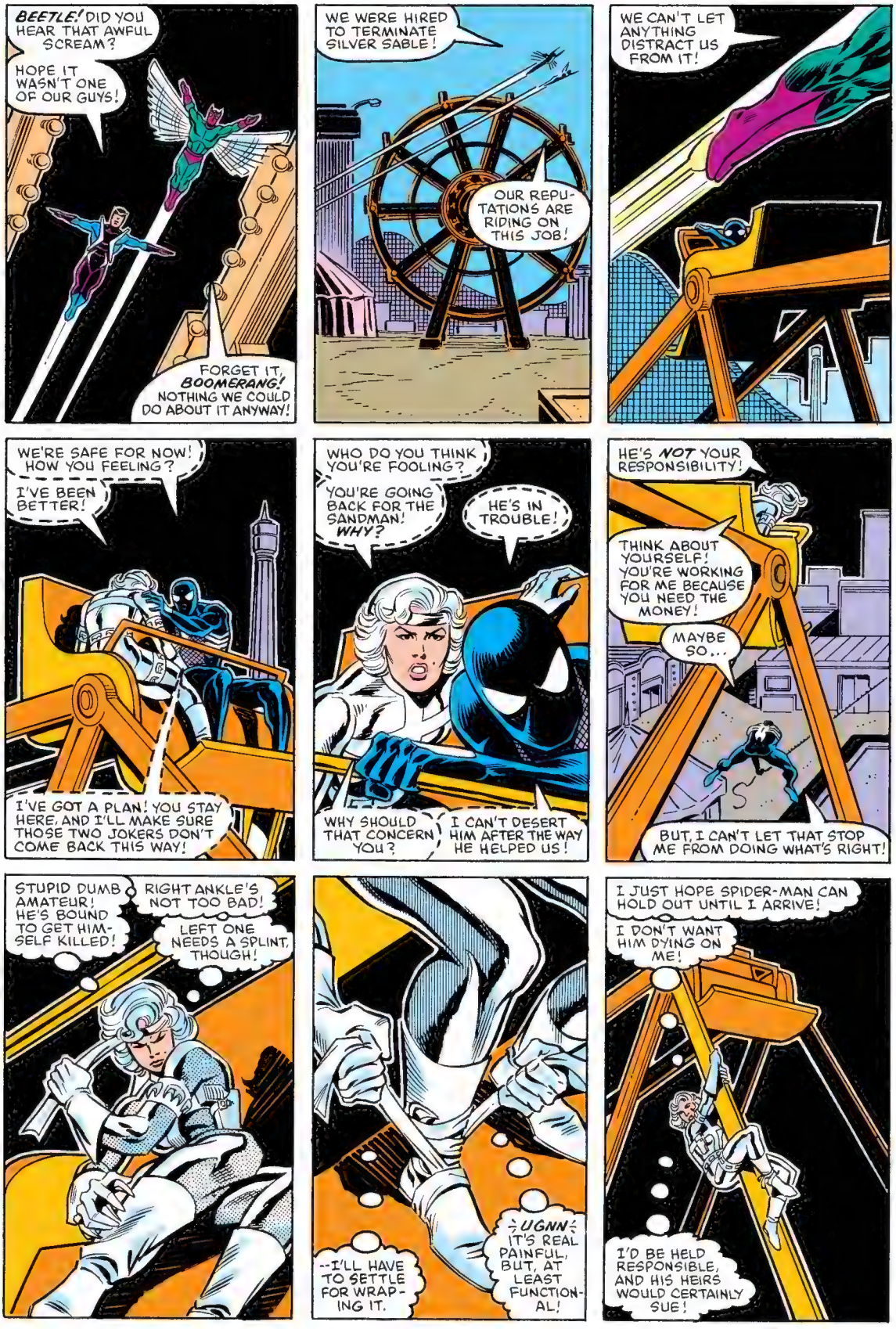

WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT TO THE BEETLE?!
YOU'VE GOT EYES, BOOMERANG! USE THEM!
SPIDER-MAN, DO YOU RECOGNIZE OUR MYSTERIOUS SAVIOR?
I'M AFRAID I DO...
GET AWAY FROM THE WEB-SWINGER AND THE BROAD! I'M WARNING YA--!
LEAVE 'EM ALONE, OR GET TRASHED BY...THE SANDMAN!
WHAT'S THE SANDMAN DOING HERE? I HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE THAT HE HAD RETIRED FROM CRIME!
STOP THAT FOOL BEFORE HE RUINS EVERYTHING!
WITH PLEASURE!
I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF OLD SCORES TO SETTLE WITH THIS BUM!
YOU ALWAYS DID HAVE A BIG MOUTH, HYDRO-MAN!
SPWASH!
LET ME CLOSE IT FOR YA!
DON'T KNOW WHERE SANDY POPPED UP FROM--OR WHY HE'S HELPING US--BUT, MY FIRST PRIORITY IS GETTING SILVER TO SAFETY!
CAN YOU WALK, LADY?
I CAN MANAGE LET'S FIND SOME COVER.
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR STICKING YOUR BIG, FAT NOSE INTO OUR PRIVATE BUSINESS!
NOBODY--NOT EVEN YOU--CAN WITHSTAND THE MATCHLESS POWER OF THE RHINO!
YOU GOT ME QUAKING, PAL!


TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I CAN INSTANTLY MAKE MY BODY ALL SOFT AND SANDY!
HYDRO-MAN! LOOK OUT! CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
÷UFF÷
THESE CLOWNS DON'T REALIZE THAT I LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND CAME RUNNING WHEN I HEARD ALL THE COMMOTION!*
*SEE LAST ISSUE--OWZ!
I DON'T GIVE A HANG ABOUT SPIDER-MAN -- THOUGH I WASN'T TOO CRAZY ABOUT THE ODDS AGAINST HIM!
I JUST HATE HYDRO-MAN AND COULDN'T RESIST THE OPPORTUNITY TO SCREW THINGS UP FOR HIM AND HIS PALS!
UH-OH! MORE TROUBLE'S HEADING MY WAY!
NOT FAR AWAY...
THIS NIGHT HAS BEEN A TOTAL DISASTER! WE CAN'T MAKE A PROFIT HERE.
LET'S GO HOME!
WHAT ABOUT THE SANDMAN?
WHAT ABOUT HIM? WHILE I APPRECIATE HIS HELP, I DIDN'T REQUEST IT, NOR DO I EXPECT TO COMPENSATE HIM FOR IT!
BUT, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO RUN OUT ON HIM!
HE'S A BIG BOY! HE KNEW THE RISKS!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME, YOU'LL OBEY MY ORDERS!
WE'LL SAVE THIS ARGUMENT FOR LATER!
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE! NOW!!
YOU MISSED HIM, BOOMERANG!
IT'S UNCANNY THE WAY HE MANAGED TO AVOID MY BLASTERANG!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE KNEW WE WERE COMING!

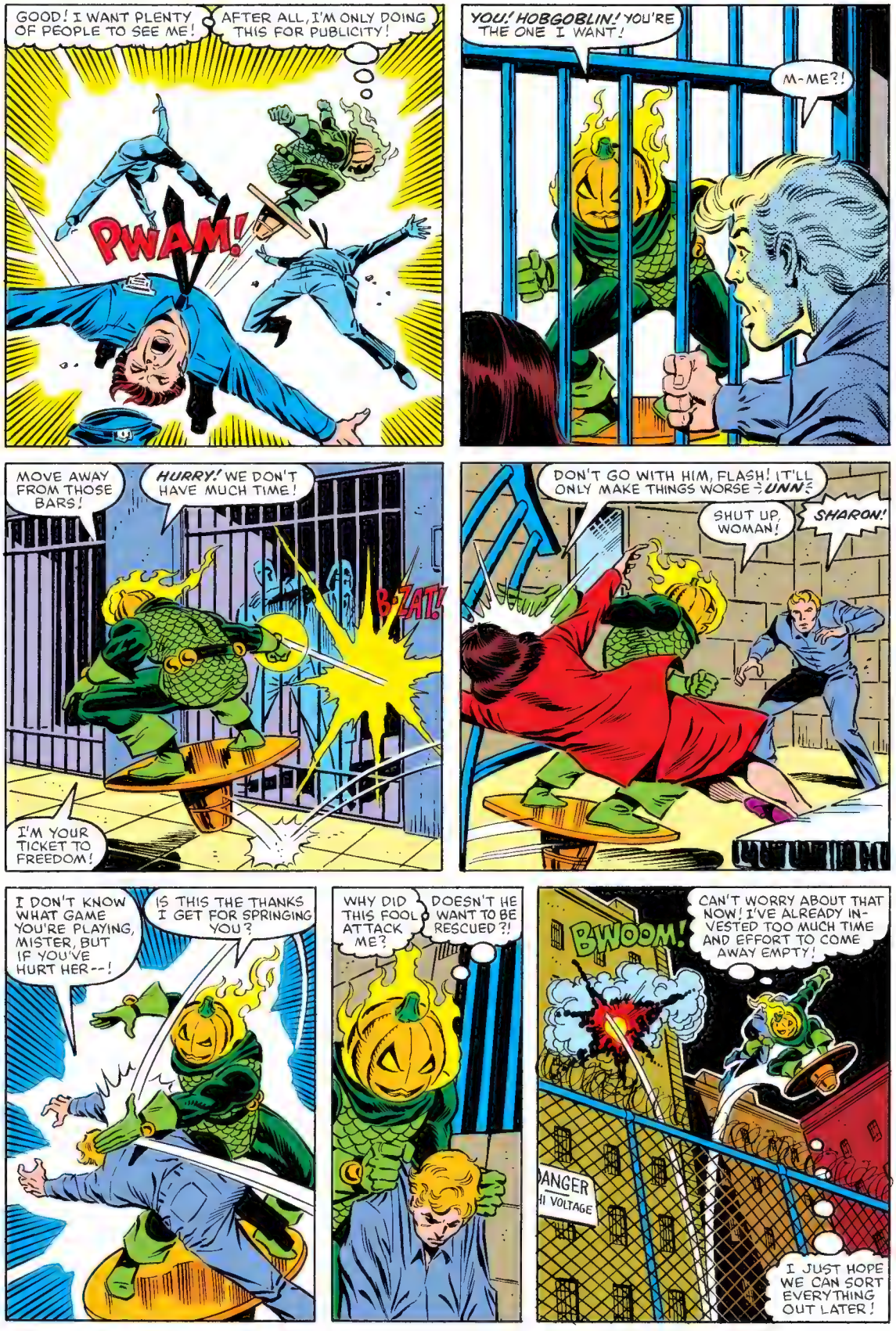

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN MANHATTAN...
THE SINISTER SYNDICATE IS CHARGING ME A SMALL FORTUNE TO ELIMINATE SABLE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET US HANDLE HER, BOSS?
THAT WOMAN IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN SHE APPEARS!
I THOUGHT IT MUCH MORE COST-EFFECTIVE TO LEAVE HER EXECUTION TO OUTSIDERS, WHILE WE PURSUED MORE LUCRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS!
UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY WORK!
DANGER: EXPLOSIVES
THE LOCAL CRIME-LORDS DO NOT FULLY APPRECIATE MY UNIQUE SKILLS!
THEY THINK OF ME AS MERE MUSCLE FOR HIRE--A SIMPLE COSTUMED ENFORCER!
THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT I AM A MASTER CRAFTSMAN--AN ARTIST--IN THE FIELD OF TERRORISM!
WELL, I'LL SHOW THEM!
A FREE DEMONSTRATION OF MY TALENTS!
A CRIME SO BOLD, SO DARING THAT IT'S GUARANTEED TO ATTRACT MAJOR NOTICE!
TAKE IT FROM ME, BOYS! THE JOB OFFERS WILL COME FLOODING IN!
EVERY CRIMELORD IN THIS CITY WILL SOON BE BIDDING FOR THE SERVICES OF JACK O'LANTERN!

JUST THEN, AT THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE...
DAILY BUGLE
HERE'S YOUR PAPER, MR. JAMESON!
TOMORROW'S MORNING EDITION!
HERE YA GO SIR! THE PAPERS STILL WARM!
THAT'S THE BEST PART, MY BOY! THE BEST PART!
HARRUMPH! ANOTHER FEATURE ARTICLE ON THE HOBGOBLIN?!
HE'S OLD NEWS! WHY IS ROBBIE STILL WASTING INK ON HIM?
LIGHT'S STILL ON IN ROBBIE'S OFFICE!
MAYBE I CAN ASK HIM ABOUT THAT NOW!
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
YOU'RE WORKING LATE TONIGHT. EVERYTHING OKAY?
HI, JONAH! GUESS I WAS A LITTLE TOO PREOCCUPIED TO NOTICE THE TIME.
WHAT'S UP?
IT'S THIS HOBGOBLIN BUSINESS--SOMETHING DOESN'T SMELL RIGHT ABOUT IT!
LIKE WHAT? THE POLICE ALREADY HAVE HIM IN CUSTODY!
IT'S THAT THOMPSON KID!
YES, THEY'VE BUILT A PRETTY CONVINCING CASE AGAINST HIM... ALMOST TOO CONVINCING!
I JUST KEEP STARING AT THESE PICTURES WHICH WERE TAKEN ON THE DAY HE WAS CAPTURED, AND... HEY!!
WHAT IS IT, ROBBIE? WHAT'S WRONG?
THE ANSWER'S BEEN RIGHT HERE ALL ALONG!
THESE PICTURES MAY PROVE THAT FLASH THOMPSON IS NOT THE HOBGOBLIN!

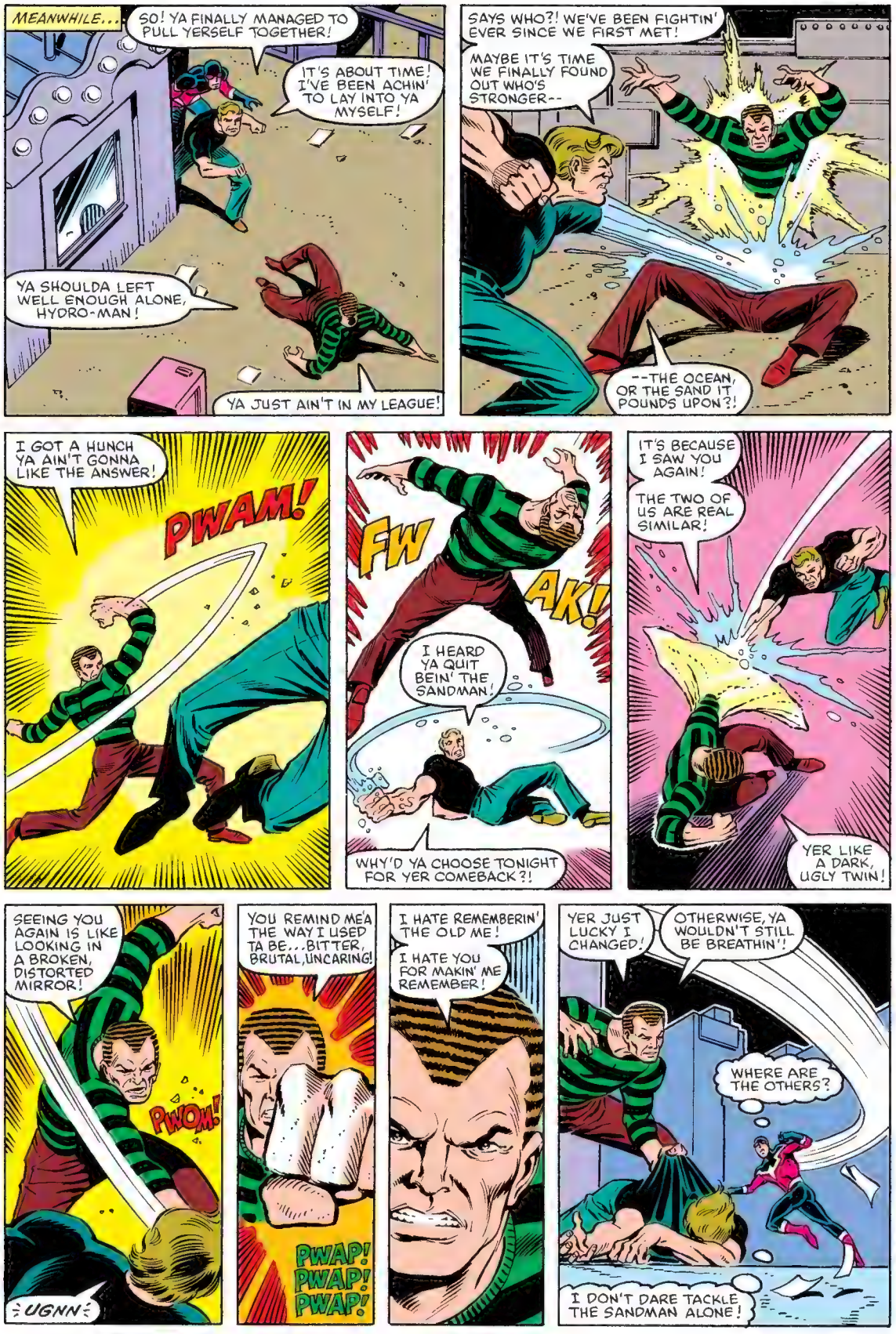

AND, BACK AT CONEY ISLAND PARK...
THBOOM!
RHINO, WAIT! REMEMBER HIS POWER--!
SANDMAN! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YER STUPID TRICKS!
I'M GONNA PULVERIZE YA!
DON'T WORRY, HYDRO-MAN! I'LL BE HAPPY TA REMIND HIM OF IT--
-- JUST AS SOON AS I RE-SHAPE MY BODY INTA A ROCK-HARD TANK!
STAND ASIDE, KIDDIES! I'M GONNA CRUSH THIS CORNY COSTUMED CLOWN!
DON'T MAKE FUN'A ME!
THE ONLY THING I HATE MORE'N LOOKIN' LIKE A HUMAN RHINO IS PEOPLE WHO MAKE FUN'A ME!
PWOOM!
I DID IT! I SMASHED HIM INTA A USELESS CLOUD OF SAND!
THAT YOU DID, PAL!
IT'S NOW UP TO THE SPEED DEMON TO KEEP HIM THAT WAY!
BY RUNNING IN A CIRCLE AT SUPER SPEED, I CAN CREATE A WIND TUNNEL THAT WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RE-FORM HIMSELF!
YAAAGH!!

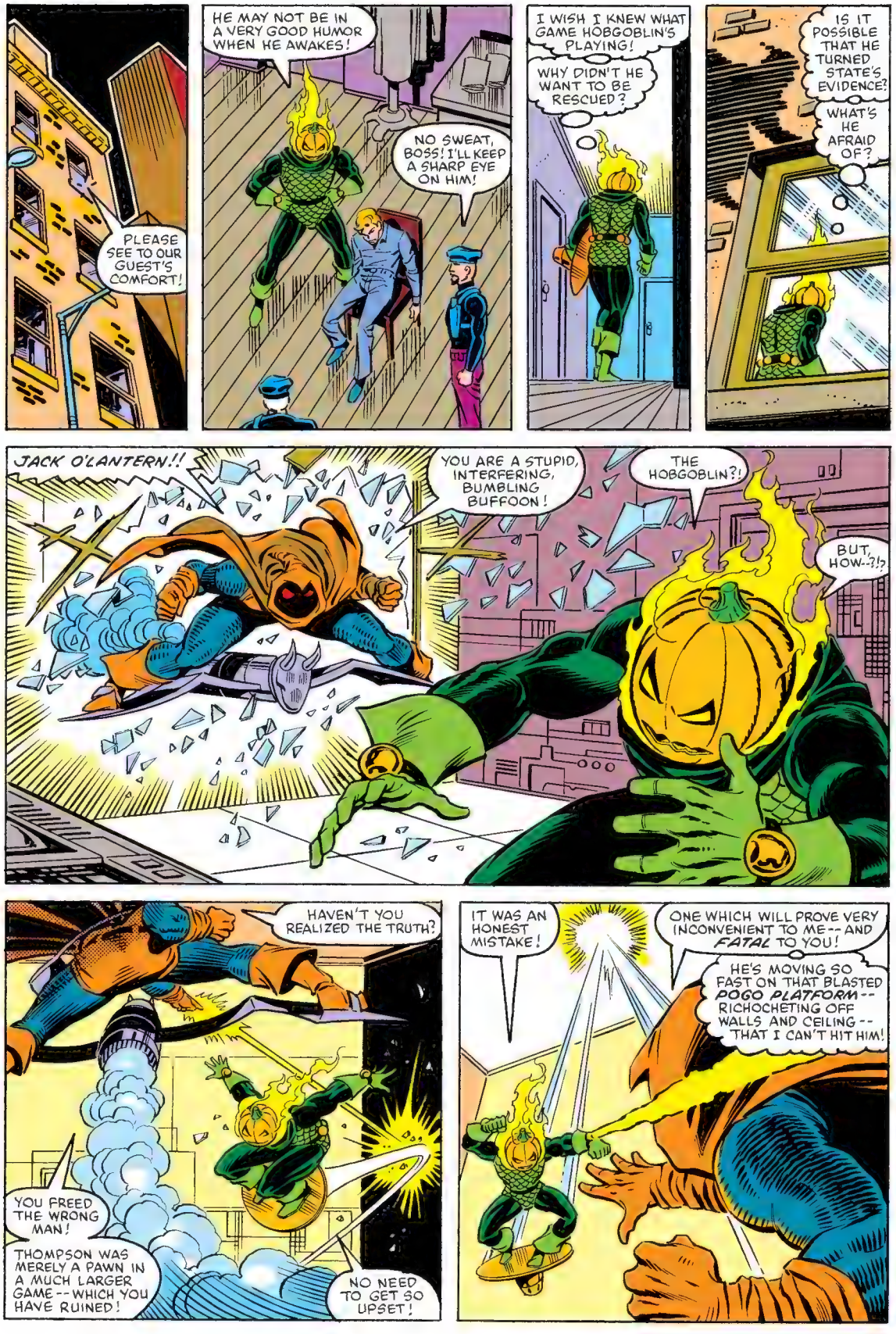

BEETLE! DID YOU HEAR THAT AWFUL SCREAM?
HOPE IT WASN'T ONE OF OUR GUYS!
FORGET IT, BOOMERANG! NOTHING WE COULD DO ABOUT IT ANYWAY!
WE WERE HIRED TO TERMINATE SILVER SABLE!
OUR REPUTATIONS ARE RIDING ON THIS JOB!
WE CAN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT US FROM IT!
WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW! HOW YOU FEELING?
I'VE BEEN BETTER!
I'VE GOT A PLAN! YOU STAY HERE, AND I'LL MAKE SURE THOSE TWO JOKERS DON'T COME BACK THIS WAY!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING?
YOU'RE GOING BACK FOR THE SANDMAN! WHY?
HE'S IN TROUBLE!
WHY SHOULD THAT CONCERN YOU?
I CAN'T DESERT HIM AFTER THE WAY HE HELPED US!
HE'S NOT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!
THINK ABOUT YOURSELF! YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME BECAUSE YOU NEED THE MONEY!
MAYBE SO...
BUT, I CAN'T LET THAT STOP ME FROM DOING WHAT'S RIGHT!
STUPID DUMB AMATEUR! HE'S BOUND TO GET HIMSELF KILLED!
RIGHT ANKLE'S NOT TOO BAD!
LEFT ONE NEEDS A SPLINT, THOUGH!
--I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR WRAPPING IT.
÷UGNN÷ IT'S REAL PAINFUL, BUT, AT LEAST FUNCTIONAL!
I JUST HOPE SPIDER-MAN CAN HOLD OUT UNTIL I ARRIVE!
I DON'T WANT HIM DYING ON ME!
I'D BE HELD RESPONSIBLE, AND HIS HEIRS WOULD CERTAINLY SUE!

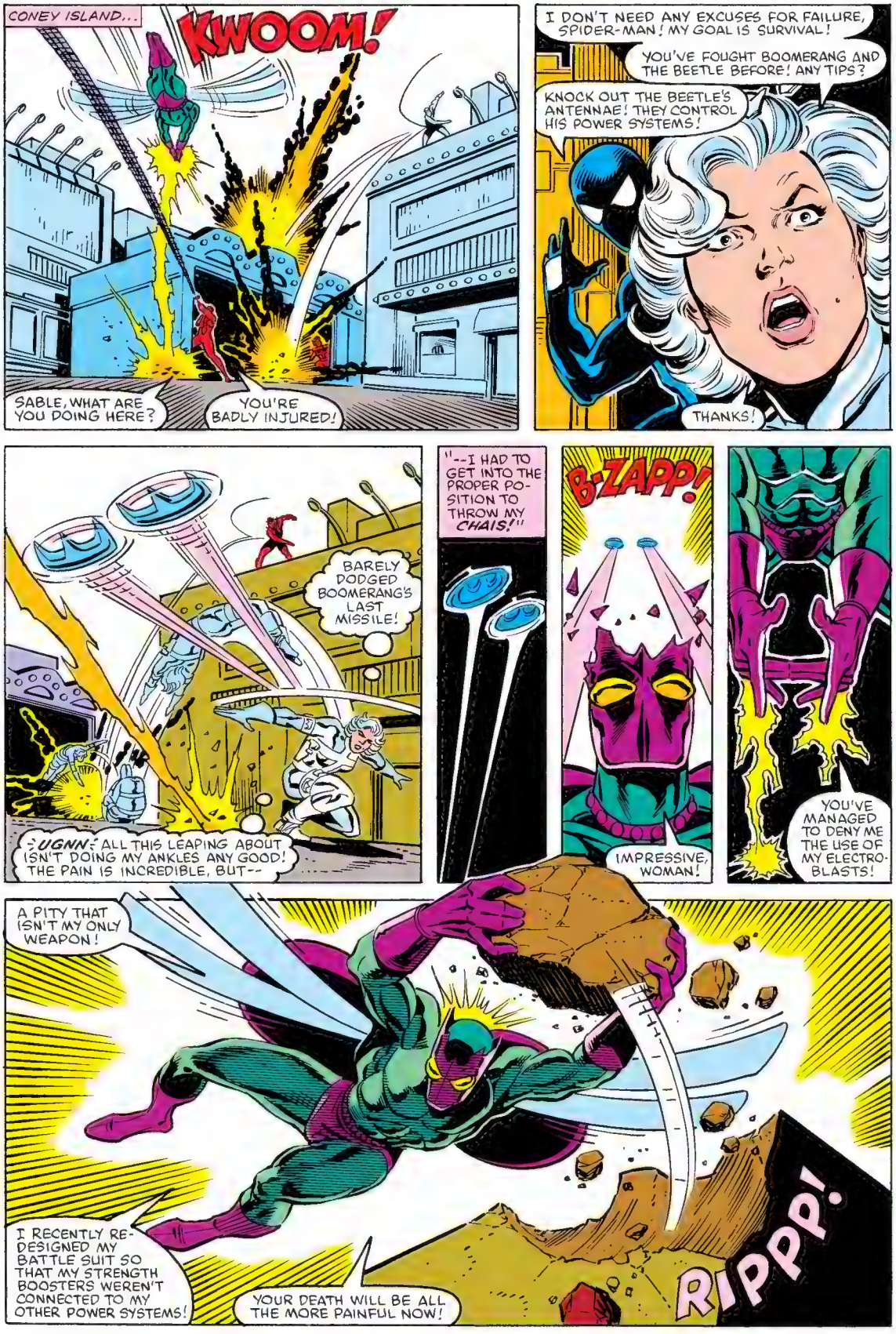
ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP, FLASH! AS YOUR LAWYER, I HONESTLY BELIEVE--
DANGER HI VOLTAGE
SAVE THE PHONEY OPTIMISM FOR THE COURTROOM, SHARON! I AIN'T BUYING IT!
WE MAY BOTH KNOW THAT THE REAL HOBGOBLIN FRAMED ME TO TAKE THIS FALL--
--BUT THE POLICE STILL HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE THEY NEED TO HANG ME!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER, ANYWAY?
I'M A NOTHING--A NOBODY! JUST LOOK AT THE WAY I'VE MANAGED TO SCREW UP MY OWN LIFE--AND THE LIVES OF EVERYONE AROUND ME!
MAYBE I'D BE BETTER OFF IN JAIL!
STOP IT, THOMPSON! I DON'T WANT YOU WALKING INTO A COURTROOM WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE!
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE THIS CASE!
I HATE LOSING! IT MAKES ME LOOK BAD!
BHOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WEE-EEEE
SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION!
HEY! WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT COMMOTION DOWN THE HALL?!
STOP THAT LUNATIC! HE BLASTED A HOLE THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING!
I INTEND TO DO A LOT MORE DAMAGE THAN THAT, MY FRIEND!
THERE! THAT GAS GRENADE SHOULD KEEP YOU BUSY FOR THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS!
I HEAR OTHER GUARDS RACING TOWARD ME!


GOOD! I WANT PLENTY OF PEOPLE TO SEE ME!
AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY DOING THIS FOR PUBLICITY!
PWAM!
YOU! HOBGOBLIN! YOU'RE THE ONE I WANT!
M-ME?!
MOVE AWAY FROM THOSE BARS!
HURRY! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
B-ZAT!
I'M YOUR TICKET TO FREEDOM!
DON'T GO WITH HIM, FLASH! IT'LL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE→UNN←
SHUT UP, WOMAN!
SHARON!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GAME YOU'RE PLAYING, MISTER, BUT IF YOU'VE HURT HER--!
IS THIS THE THANKS I GET FOR SPRINGING YOU?
WHY DID THIS FOOL ATTACK ME?
DOESN'T HE WANT TO BE RESCUED?!
BWOOM!
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW! I'VE ALREADY INVESTED TOO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT TO COME AWAY EMPTY!
ANGER
HI VOLTAGE
I JUST HOPE WE CAN SORT EVERYTHING OUT LATER!

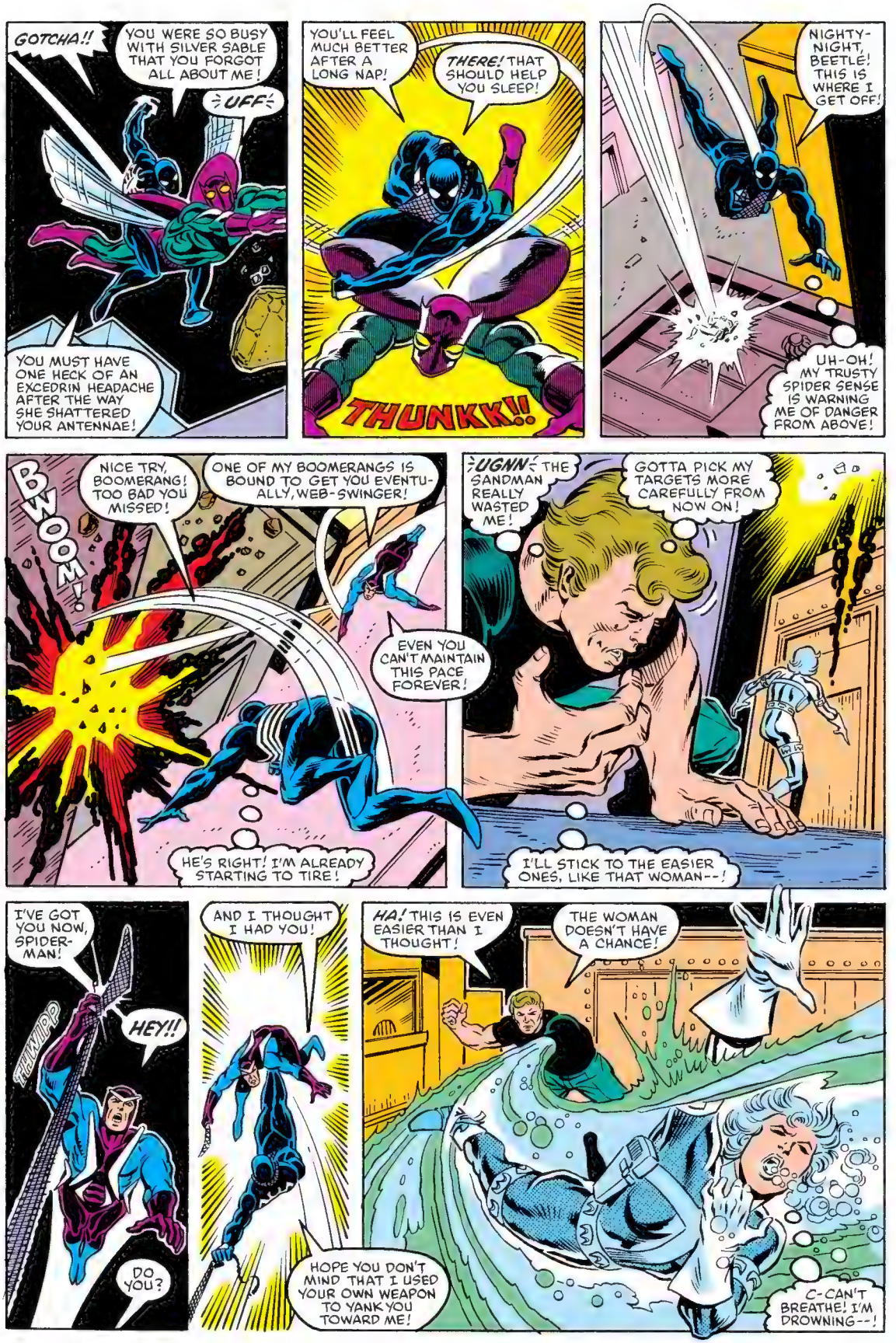
BRINGGG!
PHONE CALL, BOSS!
THANK YOU, MR. JOHNSTON.
YES, THIS IS THE ROSE.
REALLY? THAT'S VERY INTERESTING. THANK YOU FOR CALLING.
SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
INDEED! THAT WAS ONE OF MY INFORMANTS ON THE POLICE FORCE WITH A BIT OF NEWS WHICH YOU, MY FRIEND, WILL FIND OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.
NOT TEN MINUTES AGO, JACK O'LANTERN BROKE FLASH THOMPSON OUT OF JAIL.
WHAT?!
THAT INTERFERING FOOL! HE'S RUINED EVERYTHING!
I WAS USING THOMPSON TO KEEP THE POLICE OCCUPIED WHILE THE TWO OF US CONTINUED TO EXPAND OUR CRIMINAL EMPIRE!
MY DEAR HOBGOBLIN, PERHAPS WE CAN USE THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
HOW?
WHAT IF THOMPSON WERE KILLED BEFORE HE COULD BE RECAPTURED?
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, ROSE! YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING!
THE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE CONVINCED THAT THE HOBGOBLIN WAS DEAD!
THE HEAT WILL BE PERMANENTLY OFF ME!
AND, THIS WILL ALSO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH THAT UPSTART JACK O'LANTERN A LESSON--
--THAT HE'LL NEVER RECOVER FROM!
HA HA HA


MEANWHILE...
SO! YA FINALLY MANAGED TO PULL YERSELF TOGETHER!
IT'S ABOUT TIME! I'VE BEEN ACHIN' TO LAY INTO YA MYSELF!
YA SHOULDA LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE, HYDRO-MAN!
YA JUST AIN'T IN MY LEAGUE!
SAYS WHO?! WE'VE BEEN FIGHTIN' EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET!
MAYBE IT'S TIME WE FINALLY FOUND OUT WHO'S STRONGER--
--THE OCEAN, OR THE SAND IT POUNDS UPON?!
I GOT A HUNCH YA AIN'T GONNA LIKE THE ANSWER!
PWAM!
FW
AK!
I HEARD YA QUIT BEIN' THE SANDMAN!
WHY'D YA CHOOSE TONIGHT FOR YER COMEBACK?!
IT'S BECAUSE I SAW YOU AGAIN!
THE TWO OF US ARE REAL SIMILAR!
YER LIKE A DARK, UGLY TWIN!
SEEING YOU AGAIN IS LIKE LOOKING IN A BROKEN, DISTORTED MIRROR!
PWOW!
UGNN
YOU REMIND ME'A THE WAY I USED TA BE...BITTER, BRUTAL, UNCARING!
PWAP! PWAP! PWAP!
I HATE REMEMBERIN' THE OLD ME!
I HATE YOU FOR MAKIN' ME REMEMBER!
YER JUST LUCKY I CHANGED!
OTHERWISE, YA WOULDN'T STILL BE BREATHIN'!
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
I DON'T DARE TACKLE THE SANDMAN ALONE!


PLEASE SEE TO OUR GUEST'S COMFORT!
HE MAY NOT BE IN A VERY GOOD HUMOR WHEN HE AWAKES!
NO SWEAT, BOSS! I'LL KEEP A SHARP EYE ON HIM!
I WISH I KNEW WHAT GAME HOBGOBLIN'S PLAYING!
WHY DIDN'T HE WANT TO BE RESCUED?
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE TURNED STATE'S EVIDENCE?
WHAT'S HE AFRAID OF?
JACK O'LANTERN!!
YOU ARE A STUPID, INTERFERING, BUMBLING BUFFOON!
THE HOBGOBLIN?!
BUT, HOW--?!?
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED THE TRUTH?
YOU FREED THE WRONG MAN!
THOMPSON WAS MERELY A PAWN IN A MUCH LARGER GAME--WHICH YOU HAVE RUINED!
NO NEED TO GET SO UPSET!
IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE!
ONE WHICH WILL PROVE VERY INCONVENIENT TO ME--AND FATAL TO YOU!
HE'S MOVING SO FAST ON THAT BLASTED POGO PLATFORM--RICHOCHETING OFF WALLS AND CEILING--THAT I CAN'T HIT HIM!


CONEY ISLAND...
KWOOM!
SABLE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU'RE BADLY INJURED!
I DON'T NEED ANY EXCUSES FOR FAILURE, SPIDER-MAN! MY GOAL IS SURVIVAL!
YOU'VE FOUGHT BOOMERANG AND THE BEETLE BEFORE! ANY TIPS?
KNOCK OUT THE BEETLE'S ANTENNAE! THEY CONTROL HIS POWER SYSTEMS!
THANKS!
BARELY DODGED BOOMERANG'S LAST MISSILE!
UGNN! ALL THIS LEAPING ABOUT ISN'T DOING MY ANKLES ANY GOOD! THE PAIN IS INCREDIBLE, BUT--
"--I HAD TO GET INTO THE PROPER POSITION TO THROW MY CHAIS!"
B-ZAPP!
IMPRESSIVE, WOMAN!
YOU'VE MANAGED TO DENY ME THE USE OF MY ELECTRO-BLASTS!
A PITY THAT ISN'T MY ONLY WEAPON!
I RECENTLY RE-DESIGNED MY BATTLE SUIT SO THAT MY STRENGTH BOOSTERS WEREN'T CONNECTED TO MY OTHER POWER SYSTEMS!
YOUR DEATH WILL BE ALL THE MORE PAINFUL NOW!
RIPPP!

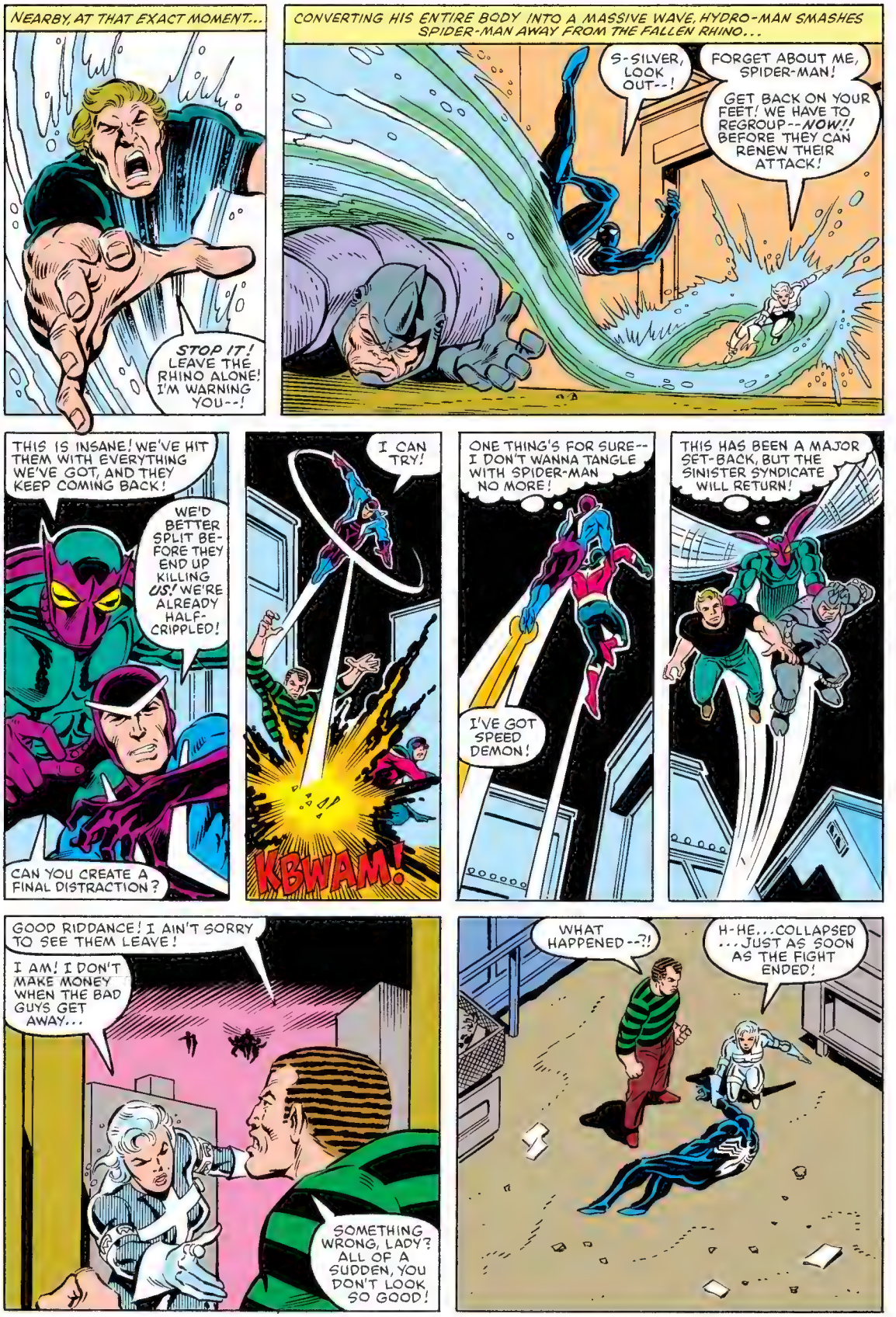
PRWOOM!!
MIDTOWN...
WHAT THE--?!
MY PLAYMATE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN FAKING UNCONSCIOUSNESS FOR THE PAST FEW MOMENTS!
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, OR WHY I WAS KIDNAPED--
KWOKK!
--BUT I'M SURE I AIN'T GONNA LIKE THE ANSWERS!
GOT TO MOVE!
I'D REALLY HATE TO RUN INTO PUMPKIN-PUSS AGAIN!
THIS HAT AND COAT I FOUND IN THE ROOM MAY COME IN HANDY!
HAD TO MOVE THE FIGHT OUTDOORS WHERE I HAD MORE ROOM TO MANEUVER!
HOBGOBLIN, YOU'RE TAKING THIS ALL MUCH TOO PERSONALLY!
AM I?
YOU DON'T FOOL ME, JACK O'LANTERN!
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO REPLACE ME IN THE UNDERWORLD --TO MUSCLE IN ON MY OPERATIONS--EVER SINCE YOU HEARD ABOUT MY ALLEGED ARREST!
THE FOOL DOESN'T REALIZE THAT THIS TRIGGER ACTIVATES A COMPUTERIZED BARRAGE OF ELECTRO-BLASTS!
HE'S ALMOST IN POSITION--!
NOW!!
PZAP!
PZAP!
PZAP!
=UGNN=

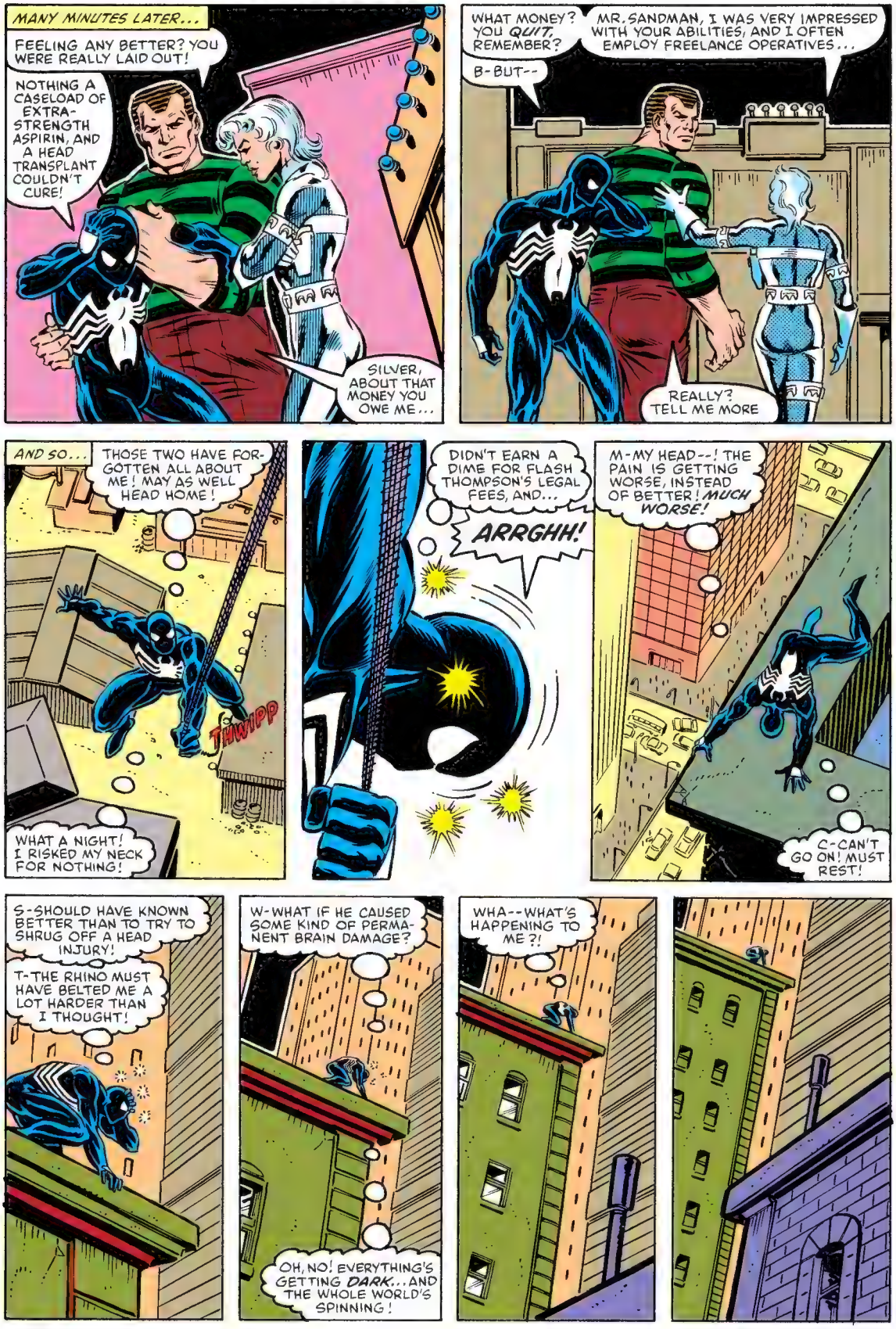

GOTCHA!!
YOU WERE SO BUSY WITH SILVER SABLE THAT YOU FORGOT ALL ABOUT ME!
÷UFF÷
YOU MUST HAVE ONE HECK OF AN EXCEDRIN HEADACHE AFTER THE WAY SHE SHATTERED YOUR ANTENNAE!
YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER AFTER A LONG NAP!
THERE! THAT SHOULD HELP YOU SLEEP!
THUNKK!!
NIGHTY-NIGHT, BEETLE! THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF!
UH-OH! MY TRUSTY SPIDER SENSE IS WARNING ME OF DANGER FROM ABOVE!
BWOOM!
NICE TRY, BOOMERANG! TOO BAD YOU MISSED!
ONE OF MY BOOMERANGS IS BOUND TO GET YOU EVENTU-ALLY, WEB-SWINGER!
EVEN YOU CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS PACE FOREVER!
HE'S RIGHT! I'M ALREADY STARTING TO TIRE!
÷UGNN÷ THE SANDMAN REALLY WASTED ME!
GOTTA PICK MY TARGETS MORE CAREFULLY FROM NOW ON!
I'LL STICK TO THE EASIER ONES, LIKE THAT WOMAN--!
I'VE GOT YOU NOW, SPIDER-MAN!
THWIPP
HEY!!
DO YOU?
AND I THOUGHT I HAD YOU!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT I USED YOUR OWN WEAPON TO YANK YOU TOWARD ME!
HA! THIS IS EVEN EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
THE WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE!
C-CAN'T BREATHE! I'M DROWNING--!

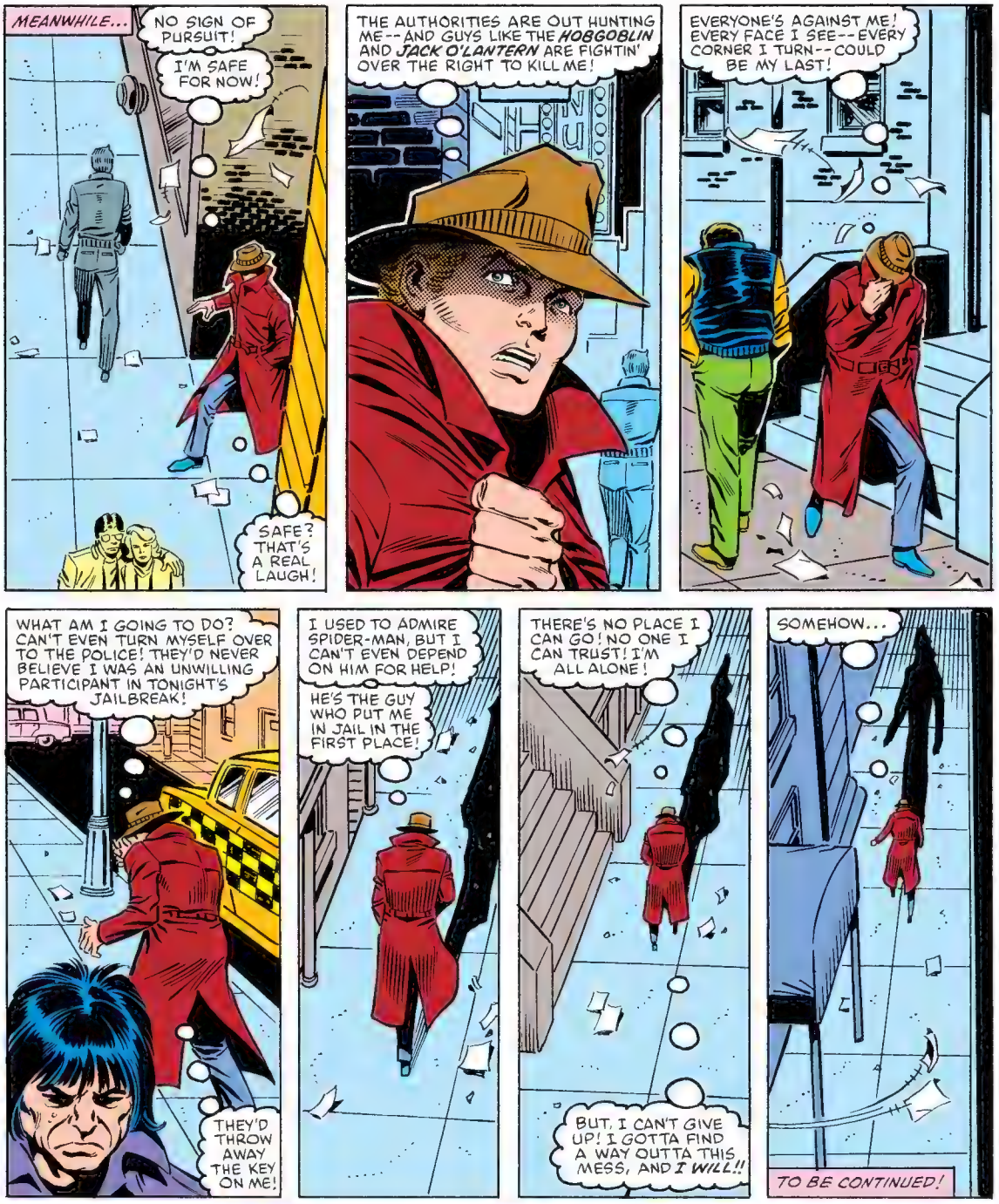
HA! HA! HA!
YOU'RE FINISHED, JACK O'LANTERN!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK--!
BAROOM!!
ARRGHH!!
STUNNED BY THE UNEXPECTED CONCUSSION BOMB, HOBGOBLIN MOMENTARILY LOSES CONTROL OF HIS BAT-GLIDER, AND...
KBWASH!
-UNN- DAZED! NEED TIME TO RECOVER!
H-HOW...DID YOU EVER SURVIVE MY COMPUTERIZED BARRAGE?
I WEAR THIS OUTLANDISH COSTUME FOR A HOST OF REASONS!
ONE IS THAT IT'S HEAVILY ARMORED!
SO MUCH FOR BRAVADO! I THINK HIS LAST ONSLAUGHT SHATTERED A FEW OF MY RIBS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
THERE'S NOTHING TO GAIN BY FURTHER BATTLE, HOBGOBLIN! I'M LEAVING!
YOU CAN HAVE FLASH THOMPSON IF YOU WANT HIM!
FAREWELL FOR NOW! I'M CERTAIN OUR PATHS ARE DESTINED TO CROSS IN THE FUTURE!
YES, BUT ONLY ONE OF US WILL SURVIVE THE NEXT ENCOUNTER!

SILVER--!
HYDRO-MAN'S KILLING HER, AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN REACH HER IN TIME!
UNLESS--!
HANG LOOSE, COWBOY! YOU'RE GOING FOR A RIDE!
MUST AIM HIM PERFECTLY! I WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!
OH, NO! THE RHINO'S BEARING DOWN ON ME!
SILVER WILL DIE IF I LEAP TO SAFETY NOW!
GOTTA STAND MY GROUND UNTIL I CAN RELEASE BOOMERANG AT THE PROPER ANGLE--
"--EVEN IF IT MEANS TAKING A HIT!"
KWAM!
WHAT THE--?!
HYDRO'S MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED!
NOW'S MY CHANCE--!
BREAKING FREE, THE DARING BOUNTY-HUNTER RACES INTO A NEARBY AMUSEMENT PARK BUILDING, DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR ANY-THING SHE CAN USE AS A WEAPON...
THIS FIRE EXTINGUISH-ER MAY DO THE TRICK!
PLOOSH!
YEOW! THAT FOAM IS MIXING INTA ME! BE-COMIN' A PART OF ME!
IT'S MAKIN' ME FEEL QUEASY! NAUSEOUS!
=ULPP= I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK!

H-HE REALLY CLOBBERED ME! HEAD'S POUNDING! VISION'S CLOUDED!
I ALWAYS DREAM'A THIS DAY, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE HELPLESS! BEATEN!
I'M REALLY GOING TO ENJOY POUNDING YA INTA MEAT SAUCE... HEY!!
BTOOM!
HOW'D I MISS YA? YER BARELY ALIVE! CAN'T EVEN STAND STRAIGHT!
BUT, THOUGH ANY OTHER MAN WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE CRUMBLED IN DEFEAT, SPIDER-MAN STRIKES BACK!
TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, HE FIGHTS ON AND ON, REFUSING TO SURRENDER!
SUCH IS THE SPIRIT WHICH FLARES WITHIN HIM!
SUCH IS HIS WILL TO SURVIVE!
MOVING INSTINCTIVELY, GUIDED BY HIS UNCANNY SPIDER-SENSE, HE DROWNS HIS FOE IN A SEA OF UNRELENTING FURY!
CAN'T ANYTHING STOP THAT GUY?
SPIDER-MAN'S OUT ON HIS FEET--FIGHTING ON GUTS ALONE--AND HE'S STILL KILLING THE RHINO!
I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ...HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE GROUND?
IT'S MOVING... AS IF IT WERE ALIVE!
WHATSAMATTER, PAL? DID YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT THE SANDMAN?
SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T CUT OUT ON ME, SO I COULDN'T ON HIM!
OH, NO! NO!!


NEARBY, AT THAT EXACT MOMENT...
STOP IT! LEAVE THE RHINO ALONE! I'M WARNING YOU--!
CONVERTING HIS ENTIRE BODY INTO A MASSIVE WAVE, HYDRO-MAN SMASHES SPIDER-MAN AWAY FROM THE FALLEN RHINO...
S-SILVER, LOOK OUT--!
FORGET ABOUT ME, SPIDER-MAN!
GET BACK ON YOUR FEET! WE HAVE TO REGROUP--NOW!!! BEFORE THEY CAN RENEW THEIR ATTACK!
THIS IS INSANE! WE'VE HIT THEM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT, AND THEY KEEP COMING BACK!
WE'D BETTER SPLIT BEFORE THEY END UP KILLING US! WE'RE ALREADY HALF-CRIPPLED!
CAN YOU CREATE A FINAL DISTRACTION?
I CAN TRY!
KBWAM!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE--I DON'T WANNA TANGLE WITH SPIDER-MAN NO MORE!
I'VE GOT SPEED DEMON!
THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR SET-BACK, BUT THE SINISTER SYNDICATE WILL RETURN!
GOOD RIDDANCE! I AIN'T SORRY TO SEE THEM LEAVE!
I AM! I DON'T MAKE MONEY WHEN THE BAD GUYS GET AWAY...
SOMETHING WRONG, LADY? ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD!
WHAT HAPPENED--?!
H-HE...COLLAPSED ...JUST AS SOON AS THE FIGHT ENDED!


MANY MINUTES LATER...
FEELING ANY BETTER? YOU WERE REALLY LAID OUT!
NOTHING A CASELOAD OF EXTRA-STRENGTH ASPIRIN, AND A HEAD TRANSPLANT COULDN'T CURE!
SILVER, ABOUT THAT MONEY YOU OWE ME...
WHAT MONEY? YOU QUIT, REMEMBER?
B-BUT--
MR. SANDMAN, I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR ABILITIES, AND I OFTEN EMPLOY FREELANCE OPERATIVES...
REALLY? TELL ME MORE
AND SO...
THOSE TWO HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME! MAY AS WELL HEAD HOME!
THWIPP
WHAT A NIGHT! I RISKED MY NECK FOR NOTHING!
DIDN'T EARN A DIME FOR FLASH THOMPSON'S LEGAL FEES, AND...
ARRGHH!
M-MY HEAD--! THE PAIN IS GETTING WORSE, INSTEAD OF BETTER! MUCH WORSE!
C-CAN'T GO ON! MUST REST!
S-SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRY TO SHRUG OFF A HEAD INJURY!
T-THE RHINO MUST HAVE BELTED ME A LOT HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!
W-WHAT IF HE CAUSED SOME KIND OF PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE?
OH, NO! EVERYTHING'S GETTING DARK... AND THE WHOLE WORLD'S SPINNING!
WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!


MEANWHILE...
NO SIGN OF PURSUIT!
I'M SAFE FOR NOW!
SAFE? THAT'S A REAL LAUGH!
THE AUTHORITIES ARE OUT HUNTING ME--AND GUYS LIKE THE HOBGOBLIN AND JACK O'LANTERN ARE FIGHTIN' OVER THE RIGHT TO KILL ME!
EVERYONE'S AGAINST ME! EVERY FACE I SEE--EVERY CORNER I TURN--COULD BE MY LAST!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? CAN'T EVEN TURN MYSELF OVER TO THE POLICE! THEY'D NEVER BELIEVE I WAS AN UNWILLING PARTICIPANT IN TONIGHT'S JAILBREAK!
THEY'D THROW AWAY THE KEY ON ME!
I USED TO ADMIRE SPIDER-MAN, BUT I CAN'T EVEN DEPEND ON HIM FOR HELP!
HE'S THE GUY WHO PUT ME IN JAIL IN THE FIRST PLACE!
THERE'S NO PLACE I CAN GO! NO ONE I CAN TRUST! I'M ALL ALONE!
BUT, I CAN'T GIVE UP! I GOTTA FIND A WAY OUTTA THIS MESS, AND I WILL!!
SOMEHOW...
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE: *FLASH THOMPSON'S ON THE RUN! ROBBIE ROBERTSON HAS A PERSONAL CRISIS! AND THOUGH SEVERELY INJURED, SPIDEY MUST FACE...*

"THE FURY OF X-FACTOR!"

PLUS! EVEN MORE SURPRISES!

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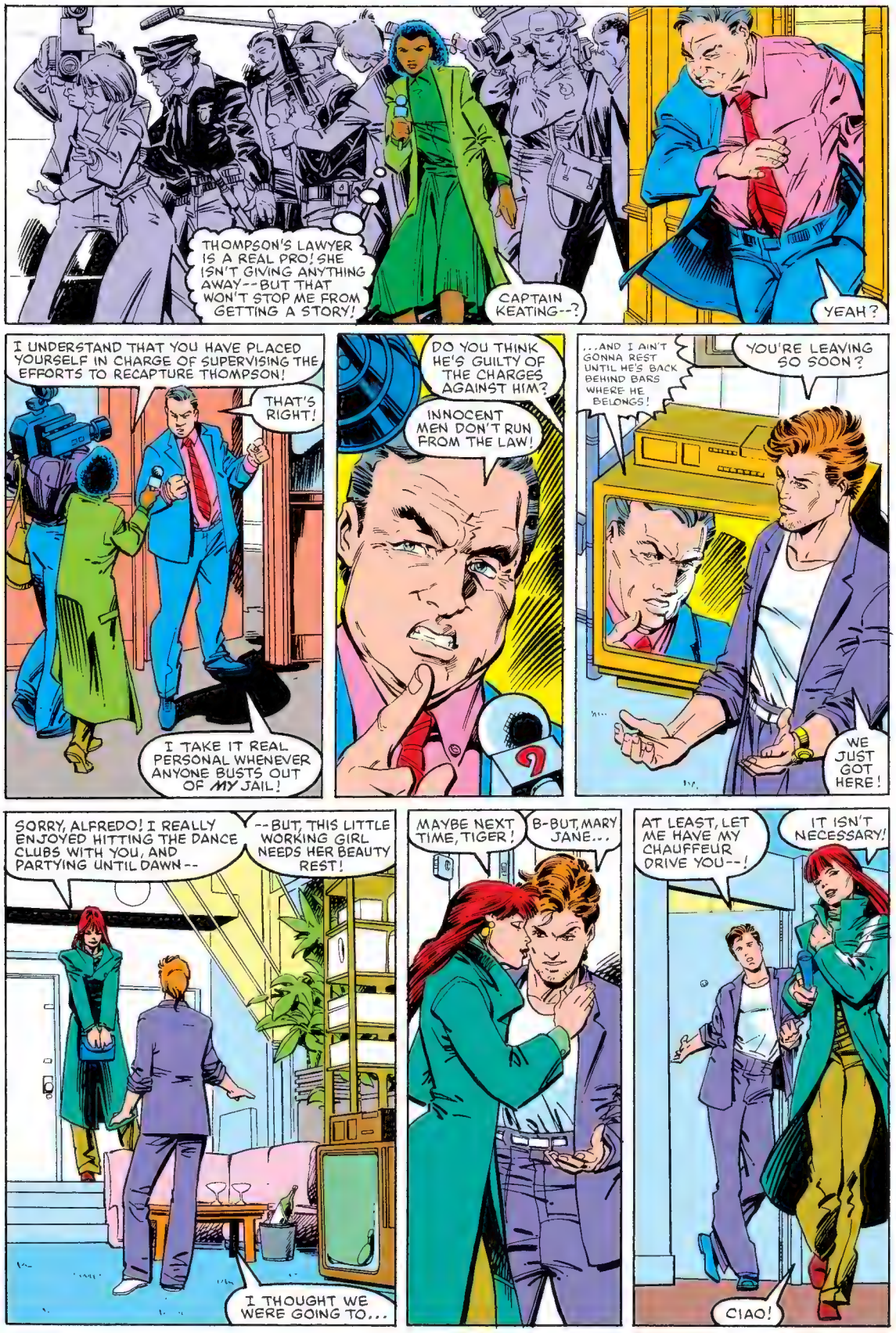
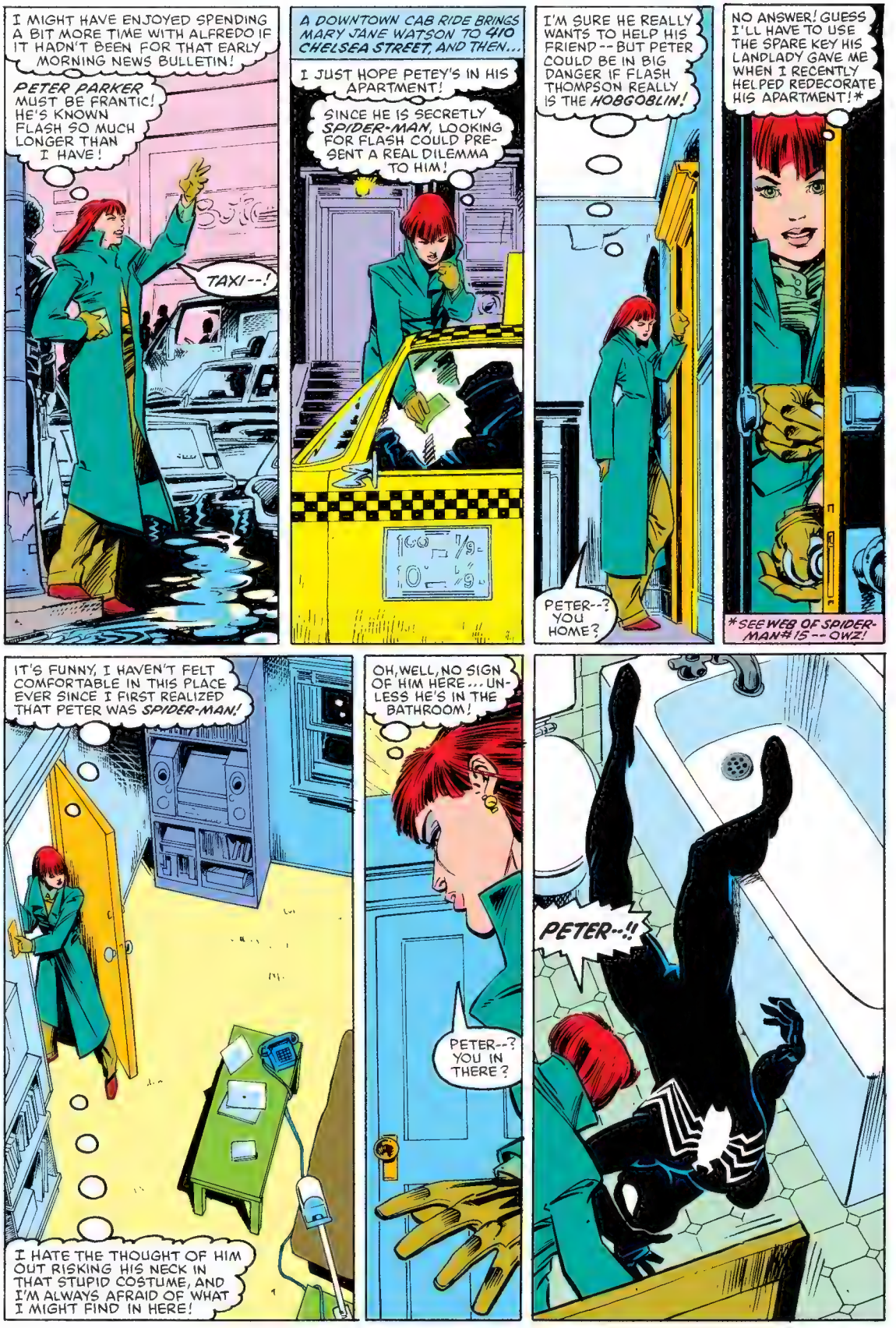
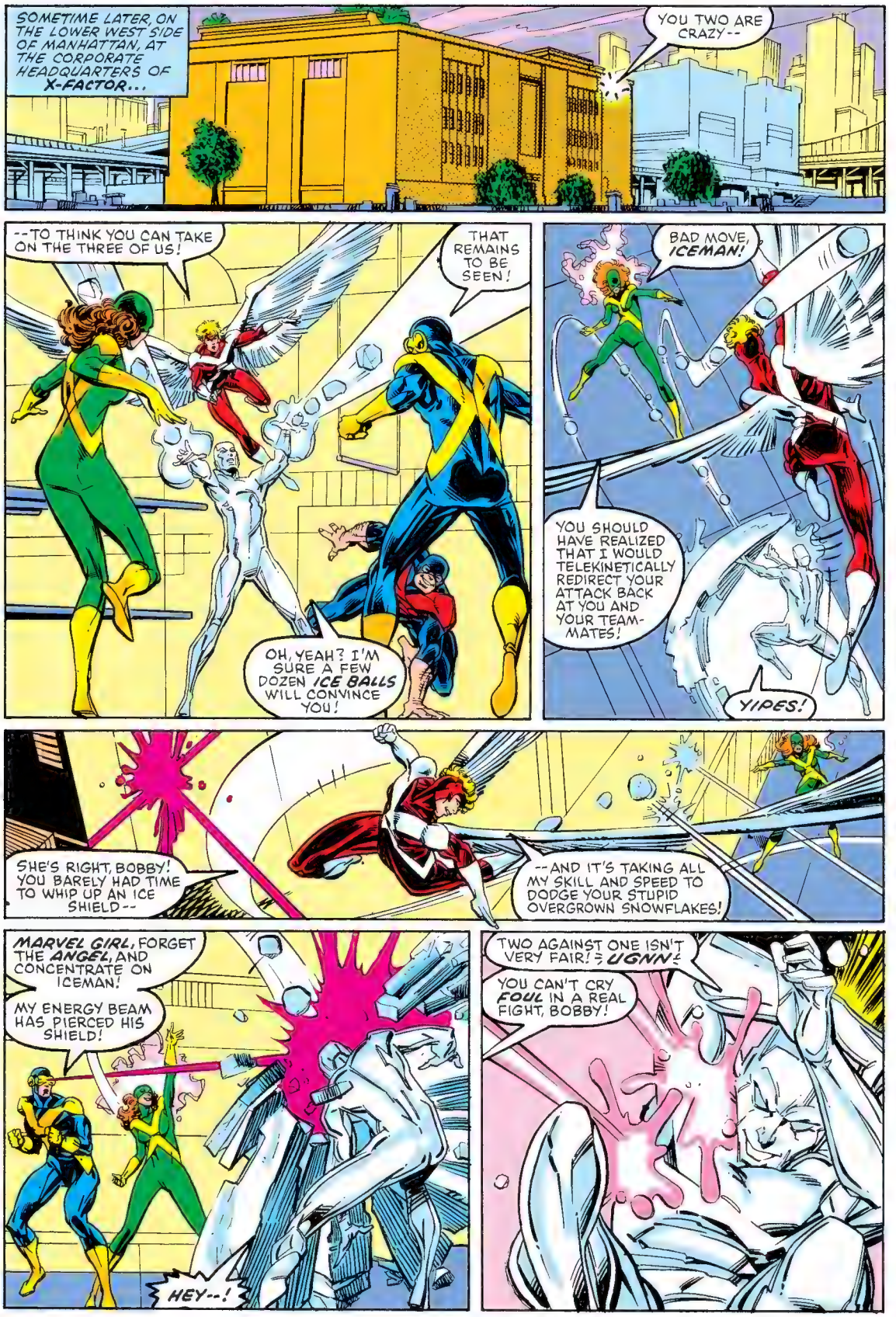
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

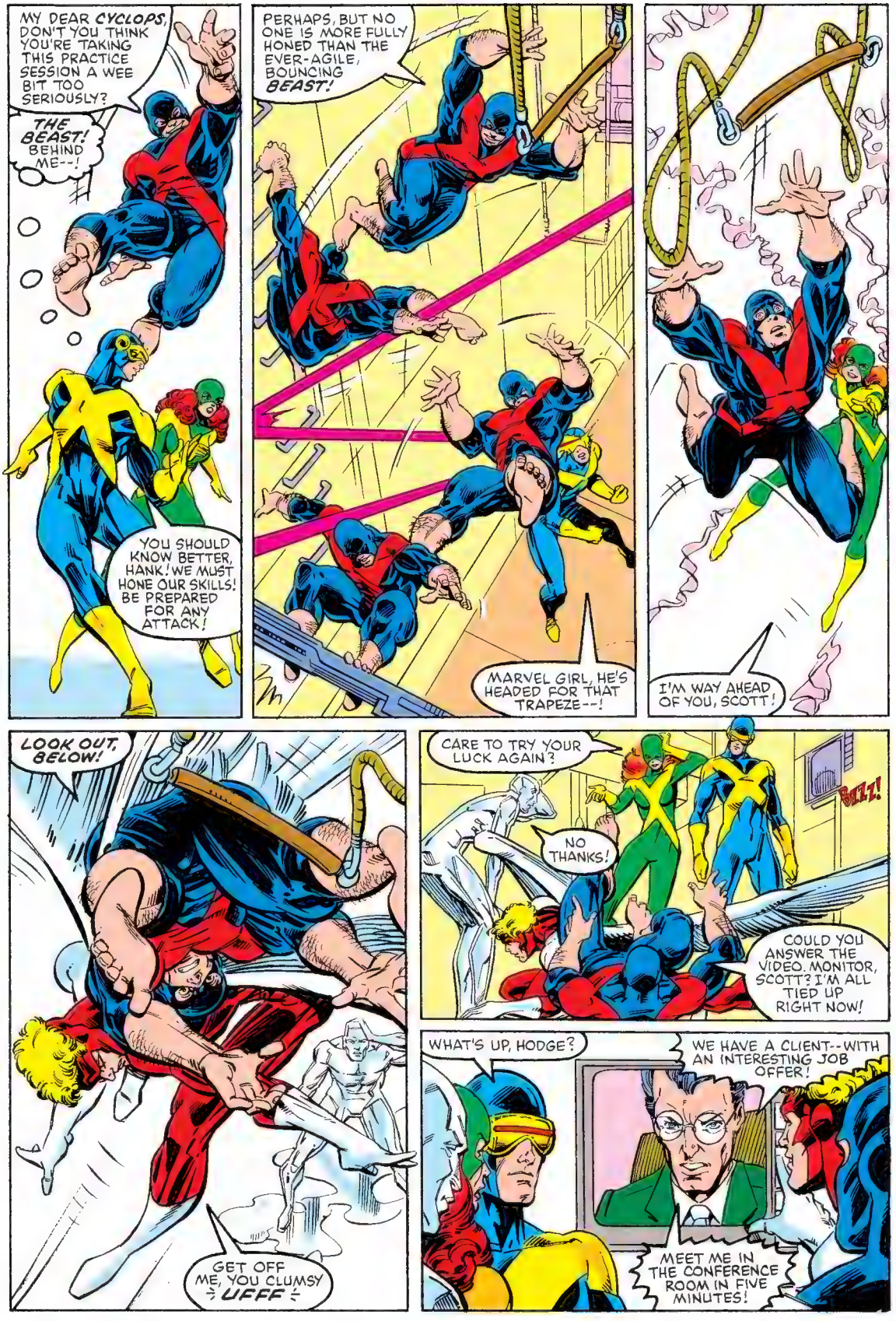
Stan Lee presents
"THE FURY OF X-FACTOR!"
6:30 A.M.: ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED FOR THE CRIMES OF THE HOBGOBLIN, FLASH THOMPSON BECAME AN UNWILLING PARTICIPANT IN A JAILBREAK ONLY HOURS AGO, AND NOW...
MS. BANKS, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WERE CONFERRING WITH YOUR CLIENT, FLASH THOMPSON, LAST NIGHT IN HIS CELL WHEN THE JAILBREAK OCCURRED?
NO COMMENT!
HOW MANY MEN HELPED HIM ESCAPE?
DOESN'T THIS CONCLUSIVELY PROVE THAT THOMPSON IS THE HOBGOBLIN?
NO COMMENT!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO
WRITER
RICK LEONARDI
PENCILER
BOB LAYTON
INKER
JOE ROSEN
LETTERER
NEL YOMTOV
COLORIST
JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF


THOMPSON'S LAWYER IS A REAL PRO! SHE ISN'T GIVING ANYTHING AWAY--BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM GETTING A STORY!
CAPTAIN KEATING--?
YEAH?
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE PLACED YOURSELF IN CHARGE OF SUPERVISING THE EFFORTS TO RECAPTURE THOMPSON!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I TAKE IT REAL PERSONAL WHENEVER ANYONE BUSTS OUT OF MY JAIL!
DO YOU THINK HE'S GUILTY OF THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM?
INNOCENT MEN DON'T RUN FROM THE LAW!
...AND I AIN'T GONNA REST UNTIL HE'S BACK BEHIND BARS WHERE HE BELONGS!
YOU'RE LEAVING SO SOON?
WE JUST GOT HERE!
SORRY, ALFREDO! I REALLY ENJOYED HITTING THE DANCE CLUBS WITH YOU, AND PARTYING UNTIL DAWN--
--BUT, THIS LITTLE WORKING GIRL NEEDS HER BEAUTY REST!
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO...
MAYBE NEXT TIME, TIGER!
B-BUT, MARY JANE...
AT LEAST, LET ME HAVE MY CHAUFFEUR DRIVE YOU--!
IT ISN'T NECESSARY!
CIAO!

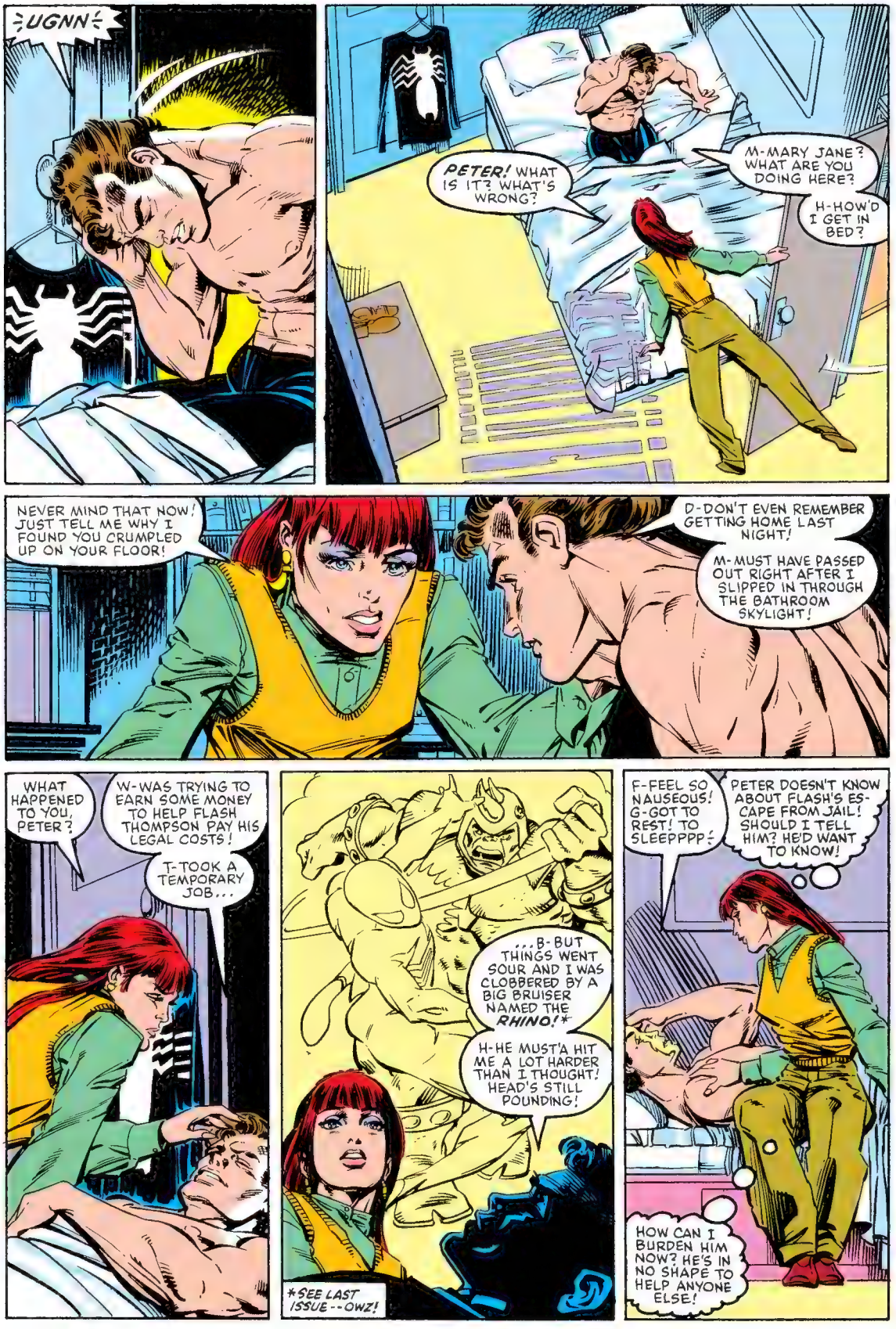

I MIGHT HAVE ENJOYED SPENDING A BIT MORE TIME WITH ALFREDO IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT EARLY MORNING NEWS BULLETIN!
PETER PARKER MUST BE FRANTIC! HE'S KNOWN FLASH SO MUCH LONGER THAN I HAVE!
TAXI--!
A DOWNTOWN CAB RIDE BRINGS MARY JANE WATSON TO 410 CHELSEA STREET, AND THEN...
I JUST HOPE PETEY'S IN HIS APARTMENT!
SINCE HE IS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN, LOOKING FOR FLASH COULD PRESENT A REAL DILEMMA TO HIM!
I'M SURE HE REALLY WANTS TO HELP HIS FRIEND -- BUT PETER COULD BE IN BIG DANGER IF FLASH THOMPSON REALLY IS THE HOBGOBLIN!
PETER--? YOU HOME?
NO ANSWER! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO USE THE SPARE KEY HIS LANDLADY GAVE ME WHEN I RECENTLY HELPED REDECORATE HIS APARTMENT!*
*SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #15 -- OWZ!
IT'S FUNNY, I HAVEN'T FELT COMFORTABLE IN THIS PLACE EVER SINCE I FIRST REALIZED THAT PETER WAS SPIDER-MAN!
I HATE THE THOUGHT OF HIM OUT RISKING HIS NECK IN THAT STUPID COSTUME, AND I'M ALWAYS AFRAID OF WHAT I MIGHT FIND IN HERE!
OH, WELL, NO SIGN OF HIM HERE... UNLESS HE'S IN THE BATHROOM!
PETER--? YOU IN THERE?
PETER--!!

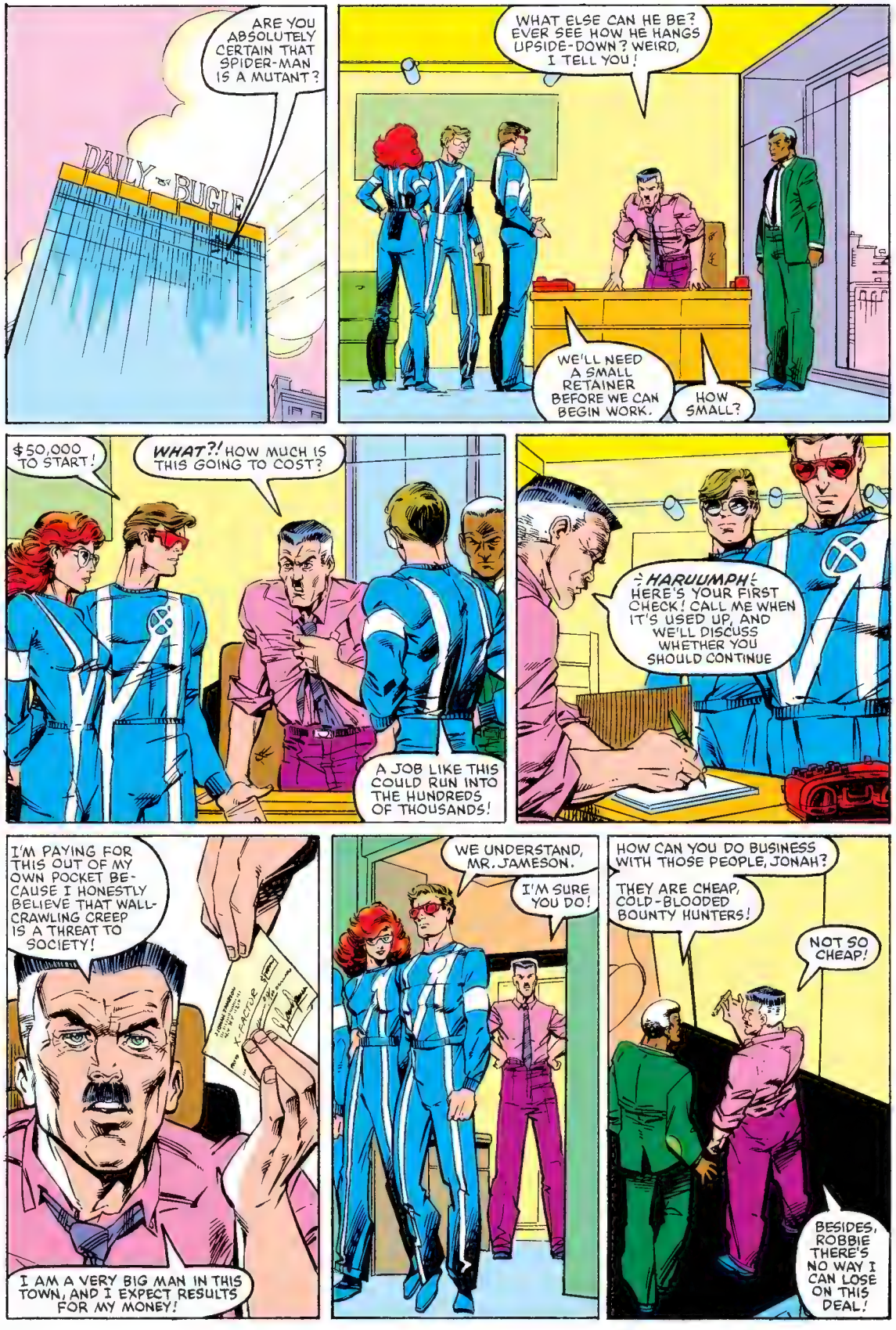
INNOCENT MEN DON'T RUN FROM THE LAW!
DAILY BUGLE
I AIN'T GONNA REST UNTIL HE'S BACK BEHIND BARS!
KEATING SOUNDS LIKE HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, JONAH!
I WAS SO SURE THAT THOMPSON WASN'T GUILTY!
YOU BASING HIS INNOCENCE ON PROOF, OR GUT INSTINCT?
THESE TWO PICTURES WERE TAKEN--BARELY AN HOUR APART--ON THE DAY THOMPSON WAS ARRESTED FOR THE CRIMES OF THE HOBGOBLIN! *
*SEE ISSUE #276--OWZ!
THEY CLEARLY SHOW THAT THOMPSON WAS WEARING A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT COSTUME FROM THE REAL HOBGOBLIN!
MAYBE THE GUY OWNS MORE THAN ONE UNION SUIT! JUST LIKE HIS WALL-CRAWLING PAL!
HE COULDN'T HAVE CHANGED HIS CLOTHES --BECAUSE EYE-WITNESSES REPORT THAT HE WAS BUSY FIGHTING SPIDER-MAN AT THE TIME!
TOO BAD KEATING ISN'T OUT HUNTING HIM!
MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE THREATENED BY THE DREADED MUTANT MENACE!
BUT, JONAH, SPIDER-MAN'S NOT REALLY INVOLVED IN ALL THIS!
DON'T KID YOURSELF, ROBBIE!
THAT WEB-SWINGING WEIRDO IS THE REAL MENACE TO PUBLIC SAFETY!
THEY LIVE IN SECRET AND PLAN TO DESTROY THE VERY LIVES OF US NORMAL PEOPLE!
EH--?!
CALL NOW
BUT NOW, X-FACTOR CAN PROTECT YOU! IF YOU SUSPECT ANYONE OF MUTANT ACTIVITY, CALL THIS TOLL-FREE NUMBER NOW, AND LET THE MUTANT PROFESSIONALS HANDLE IT!


SOMETIME LATER, ON THE LOWER WEST SIDE OF MANHATTAN, AT THE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS OF X-FACTOR...
YOU TWO ARE CRAZY--
--TO THINK YOU CAN TAKE ON THE THREE OF US!
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN!
OH, YEAH? I'M SURE A FEW DOZEN ICE BALLS WILL CONVINCE YOU!
BAD MOVE, ICEMAN!
YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT I WOULD TELEKINETICALLY REDIRECT YOUR ATTACK BACK AT YOU AND YOUR TEAM-MATES!
YIPES!
SHE'S RIGHT, BOBBY! YOU BARELY HAD TIME TO WHIP UP AN ICE SHIELD--
--AND IT'S TAKING ALL MY SKILL AND SPEED TO DODGE YOUR STUPID OVERGROWN SNOWFLAKES!
MARVEL GIRL, FORGET THE ANGEL, AND CONCENTRATE ON ICEMAN!
MY ENERGY BEAM HAS PIERCED HIS SHIELD!
HEY--!
TWO AGAINST ONE ISN'T VERY FAIR! UGNN
YOU CAN'T CRY FOUL IN A REAL FIGHT, BOBBY!


MY DEAR CYCLOPS, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING THIS PRACTICE SESSION A WEE BIT TOO SERIOUSLY?
THE BEAST! BEHIND ME--!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER, HANK! WE MUST HONE OUR SKILLS! BE PREPARED FOR ANY ATTACK!
PERHAPS, BUT NO ONE IS MORE FULLY HONED THAN THE EVER-AGILE, BOUNCING BEAST!
MARVEL GIRL, HE'S HEADED FOR THAT TRAPEZE--!
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SCOTT!
LOOK OUT, BELOW!
GET OFF ME, YOU CLUMSY ÷ UFFF ÷
CARE TO TRY YOUR LUCK AGAIN?
NO THANKS!
BUZZ!
COULD YOU ANSWER THE VIDEO. MONITOR, SCOTT? I'M ALL TIED UP RIGHT NOW!
WHAT'S UP, HODGE?
WE HAVE A CLIENT--WITH AN INTERESTING JOB OFFER!
MEET ME IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN FIVE MINUTES!

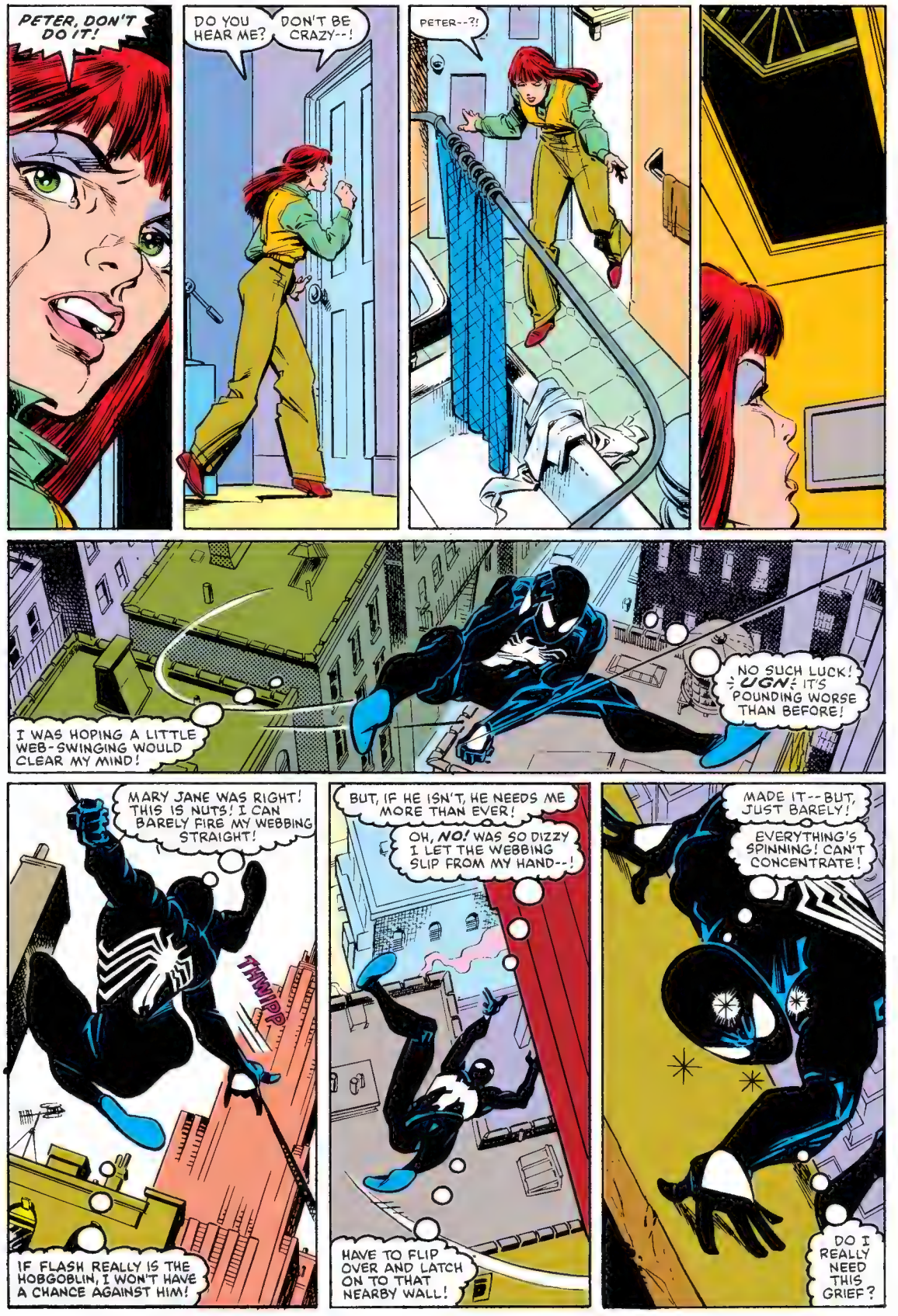
J. JONAH JAMESON PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY BUGLE, SAW ONE OF OUR ADS EARLIER THIS MORNING!
HE WANTS TO HIRE X-FACTOR TO CAPTURE SPIDER-MAN!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
TELL HIM TO TRY CALLING C-FACTOR! WE SPECIALIZE IN MUTANTS, NOT COSTUMED CORNBALLS!
HANK'S RIGHT! SPIDER-MAN'S NO MUTANT!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE? HE LOOKS WEIRD, AND CAN APPARENTLY STICK TO WALLS!
THAT SAYS MUTANT TO YOUR MAN IN THE STREET!
LOOK, WE GET A LOT OF CRANK CALLS THAT ARE EASY TO DISMISS! PEOPLE REPORTING NEIGHBORS AS MUTANTS!
BUT, WE CAN'T JUST BRUSH OFF AN IMPORTANT MAN LIKE JAMESON!
WHY NOT? WE FORMED X-FACTOR SO THAT WE COULD FIND OTHER MUTANTS--AND SECRETLY TRAIN THEM TO CONTROL THEIR SPECIAL ABILITIES--SO THAT THEY WON'T BE A MENACE TO HUMAN SOCIETY!
WE'RE NOT BOUNTY HUNTERS!
THE PUBLIC THINKS WE ARE--
--THANKS TO OUR OWN ADS!
HEY, WHO SAYS WE CAN'T HELP SPIDER-MAN IN THE SAME WAY WE HELP OUR FELLOW MUTANTS.
AND, JUST THINK OF ALL THE FREE PUBLICITY YOU'D GET FROM THIS ASSIGNMENT!
WELL, SCOTT, YOU'RE OUR LEADER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

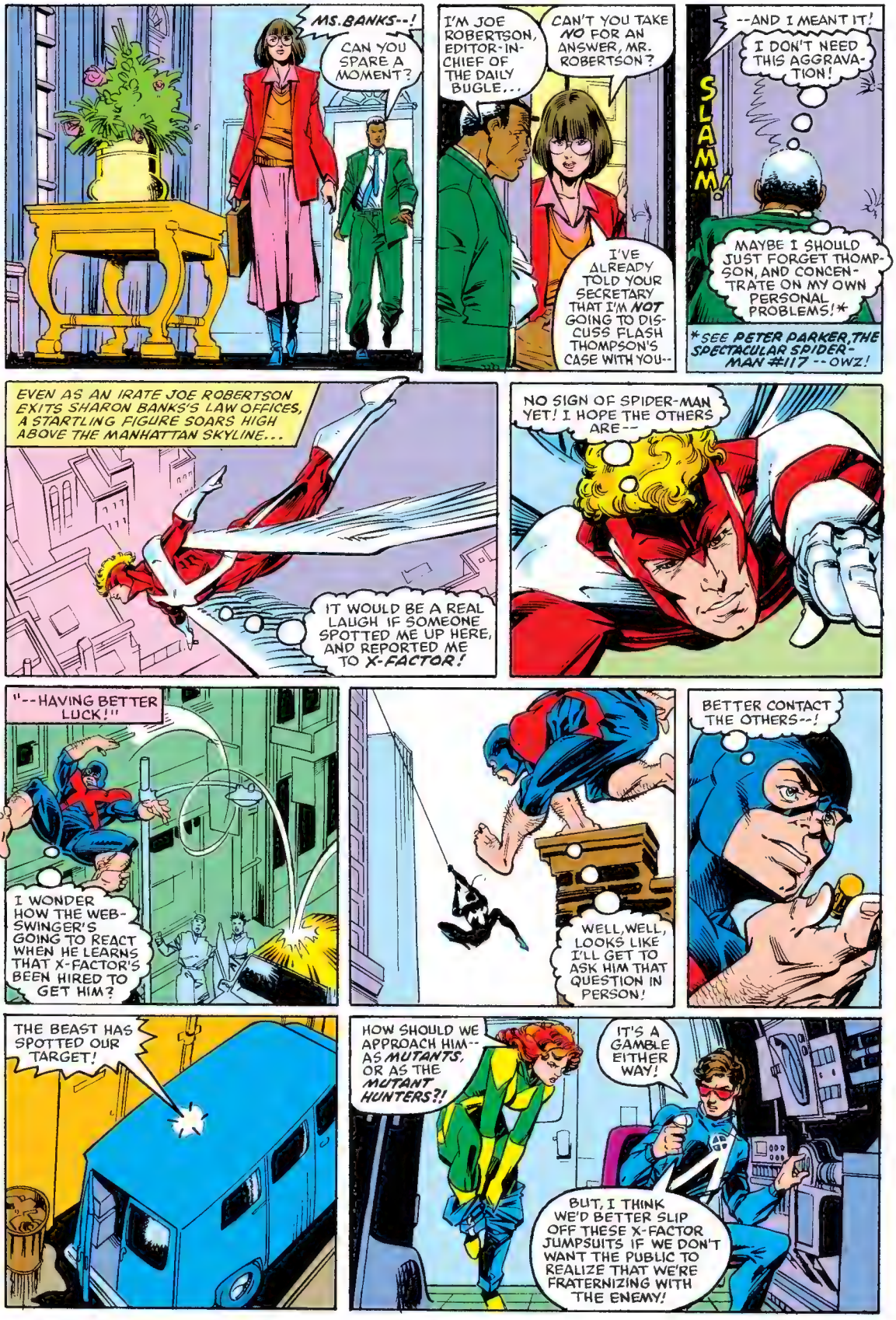

UGNN
PETER! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
M-MARY JANE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
H-HOW'D I GET IN BED?
NEVER MIND THAT NOW! JUST TELL ME WHY I FOUND YOU CRUMPLED UP ON YOUR FLOOR!
D-DON'T EVEN REMEMBER GETTING HOME LAST NIGHT!
M-MUST HAVE PASSED OUT RIGHT AFTER I SLIPPED IN THROUGH THE BATHROOM SKYLIGHT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, PETER?
W-WAS TRYING TO EARN SOME MONEY TO HELP FLASH THOMPSON PAY HIS LEGAL COSTS!
T-TOOK A TEMPORARY JOB...
...B-BUT THINGS WENT SOUR AND I WAS CLOBBERED BY A BIG BRUISER NAMED THE RHINO!*
H-HE MUST'A HIT ME A LOT HARDER THAN I THOUGHT! HEAD'S STILL POUNDING!
*SEE LAST ISSUE--OWZ!
F-FEEL SO NAUSEOUS! G-GOT TO REST! TO SLEEPPPP...
PETER DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT FLASH'S ESCAPE FROM JAIL! SHOULD I TELL HIM? HE'D WANT TO KNOW!
HOW CAN I BURDEN HIM NOW? HE'S IN NO SHAPE TO HELP ANYONE ELSE!

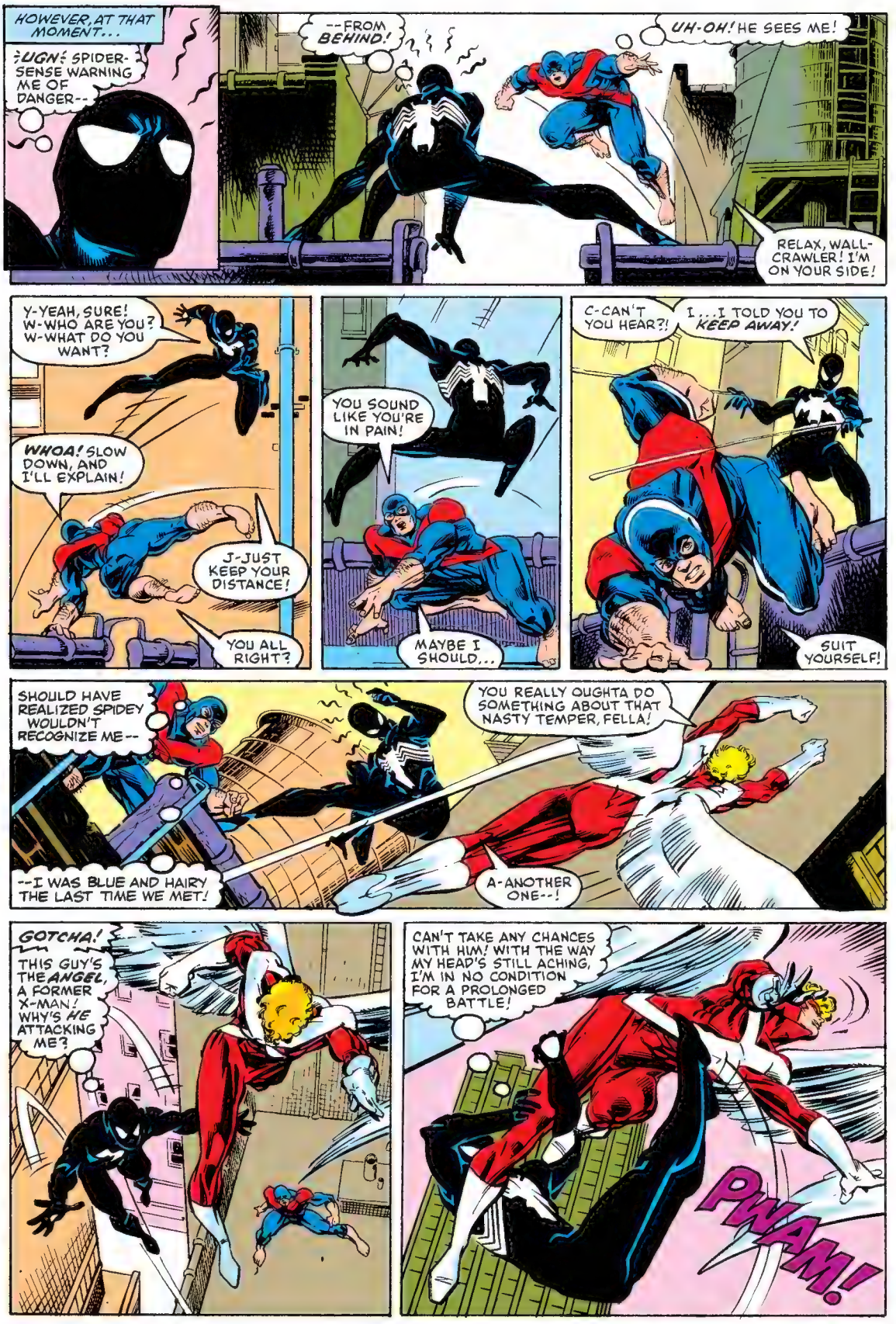

ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT SPIDER-MAN IS A MUTANT?
DAILY BUGLE
WHAT ELSE CAN HE BE? EVER SEE HOW HE HANGS UPSIDE-DOWN? WEIRD, I TELL YOU!
WE'LL NEED A SMALL RETAINER BEFORE WE CAN BEGIN WORK.
HOW SMALL?
$50,000 TO START!
WHAT?! HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST?
A JOB LIKE THIS COULD RUN INTO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS!
HARUUMPH! HERE'S YOUR FIRST CHECK! CALL ME WHEN IT'S USED UP, AND WE'LL DISCUSS WHETHER YOU SHOULD CONTINUE
I'M PAYING FOR THIS OUT OF MY OWN POCKET BECAUSE I HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT WALL-CRAWLING CREEP IS A THREAT TO SOCIETY!
K-FACTOR
I AM A VERY BIG MAN IN THIS TOWN, AND I EXPECT RESULTS FOR MY MONEY!
WE UNDERSTAND, MR. JAMESON.
I'M SURE YOU DO!
HOW CAN YOU DO BUSINESS WITH THOSE PEOPLE, JONAH?
THEY ARE CHEAP, COLD-BLOODED BOUNTY HUNTERS!
NOT SO CHEAP!
BESIDES, ROBBIE THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LOSE ON THIS DEAL!

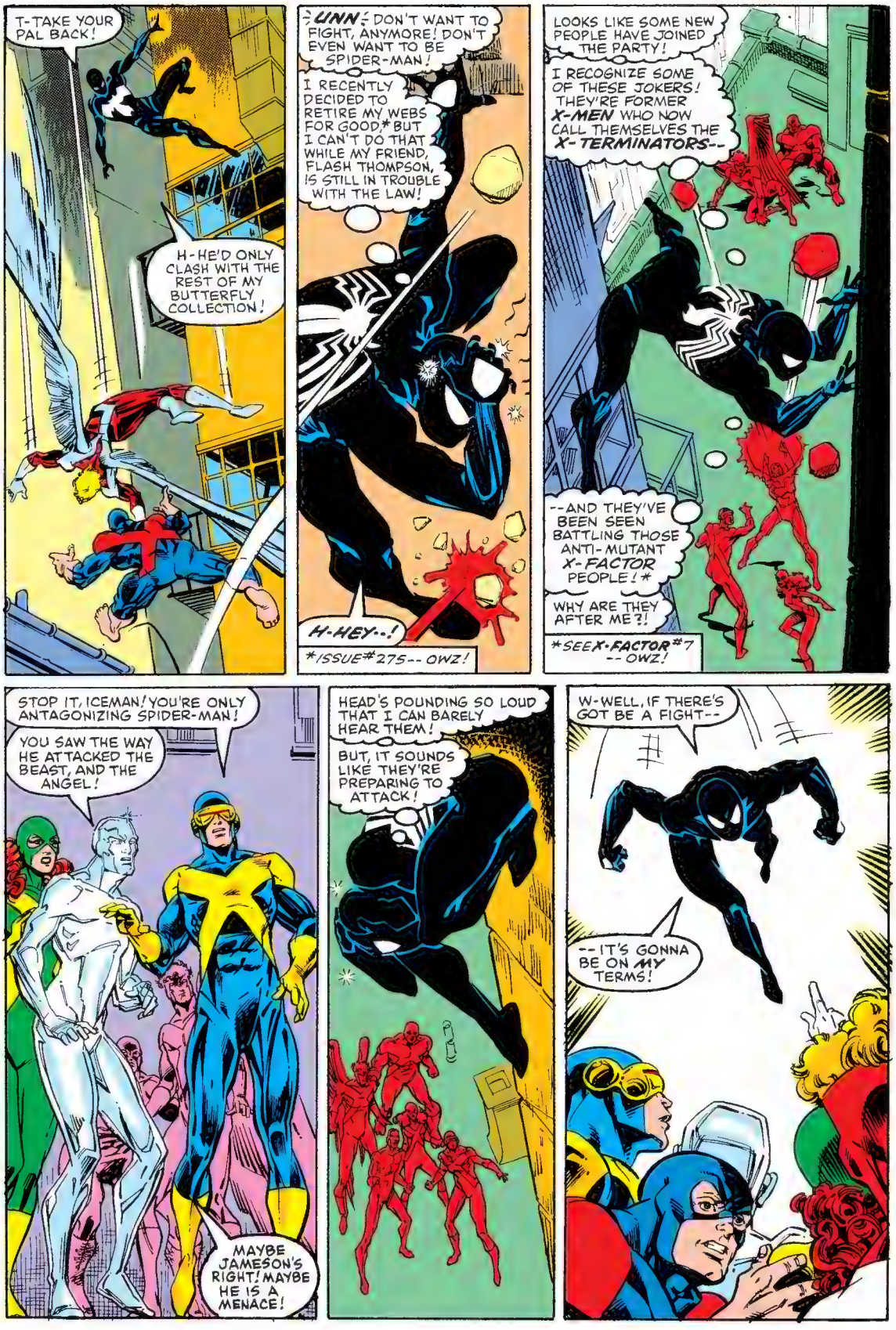
IF X-FACTOR COMES THROUGH FOR ME, THE CITY WILL FINALLY BE SAFE FROM SPIDER-MAN! IF NOT, I CAN EXPOSE THEM AS FRAUDS!
EITHER WAY, THE BUGLE AND NOW MAGAZINE ARE GUARANTEED SOME PRETTY JUICY HEADLINES!
I KNOW THAT SMILE, JONAH! YOU INTEND TO MOUNT A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THESE PEOPLE EVEN IF THEY DO SUCCEED!
OF COURSE! IN ITS OWN WAY, X-FACTOR IS AS MUCH A MENACE TO SOCIETY AS THE WEB-SWINGER!
THEY'RE VULTURES WHO ARE FUELING THE COUNTRY'S ANTI-MUTANT PARANOIA FOR THEIR OWN PROFIT!
MAYBE SO, BUT I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU SET THEM UP!
WHY SHOULD I CARE IF JONAH WANTS TO CRUCIFY X-FACTOR?
I HATE EVERYTHING THEY STAND FOR! THEY HUNT MUTANTS THE WAY OTHERS USED TO HUNT BLACKS... AND JEWS!
BUT, THE BUGLE MUST ACT RESPONSIBLY! WE'RE A NEWSPAPER-- NOT A SMEAR SHEET!
BETTY, HAVE YOU MANAGED TO GET SHARON BANKS ON THE PHONE?
I TRIED HER OFFICE, BUT SHE ISN'T TAKING ANY CALLS FROM THE PRESS!
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHY YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH FLASH THOMPSON'S LAWYER?
ROBERTSON -IN-CHIEF
LOOK, BETTY, I KNOW THAT YOU AND THOMPSON GO BACK A WAYS, AND THAT YOU CARE FOR HIM!
DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, BUT THERE'S A CHANCE-- A CHANCE-- I MAY HAVE SOME INFORMATION WHICH CAN HELP HER DEFEND HIM!
BY THE WAY, HOW ARE THINGS BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND, NED?
NOT GOOD! I LOVE NED, BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE HIM HAPPY!
TELL ME, ROBBIE, HAVE YOU EVER HOPED THAT SOMETHING WOULD WORK OUT-- BUT, DEEP DOWN, YOU KNEW YOU COULDN'T LET IT?

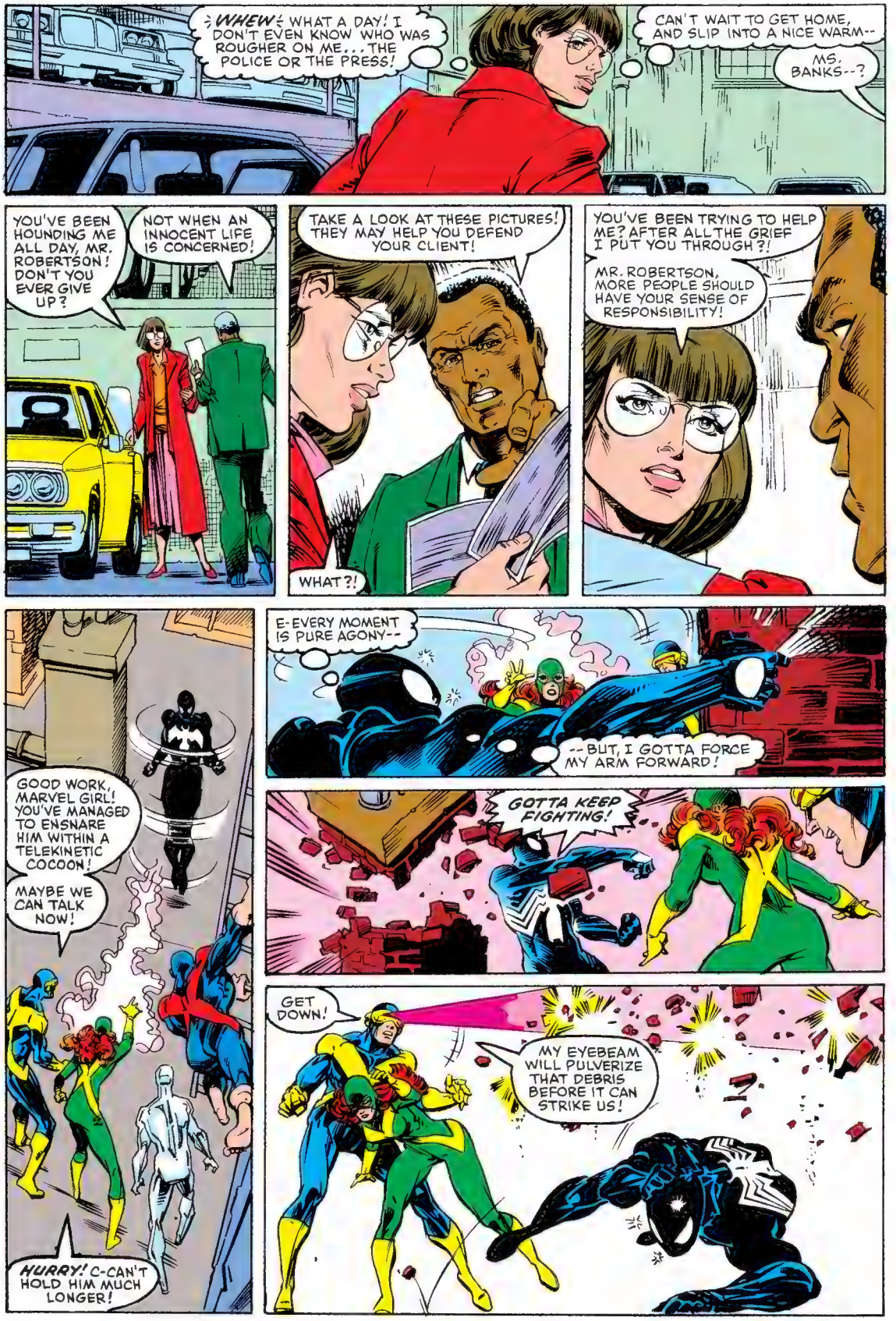
...AND, IN LOCAL NEWS, THE MANHUNT CONTINUES FOR ESCAPED FUGITIVE FLASH THOMPSON, THE HOBGOBLIN...
CLICK
W-WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT FLASH?
PETER--?! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN STANDING THERE?
L-LONG ENOUGH!
WHAT GOOD WOULD IT HAVE DONE?
LOOK AT YOURSELF! YOU CAN'T HELP HIM NOW! YOU CAN BARELY WALK!
B-BATHROOM! MUST GET TO BATHROOM!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO, TIGER? JUST LEAN ON ME! WE'RE ALMOST THERE...
I'VE NEVER SEEN PETER SO WEAK, SO HELPLESS!
BUT, I STILL DON'T TRUST HIM!
HE AND HIS STUPID SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY! THE SHAPE HE'S IN, HE'S JUST CRAZY ENOUGH TO TRY GOING AFTER FLASH, ANYWAY!
BUT, HE CAN'T GO WEB-SWINGING IN HIS UNDIES!
I'LL JUST SLIP HIS COSTUME OFF ITS HANGER, AND STASH IT IN...
OH, NO!
IT'S GONE!


PETER, DON'T DO IT!
DO YOU HEAR ME?
DON'T BE CRAZY--!
PETER--?!
I WAS HOPING A LITTLE WEB-SWINGING WOULD CLEAR MY MIND!
NO SUCH LUCK! UGH! IT'S POUNDING WORSE THAN BEFORE!
MARY JANE WAS RIGHT! THIS IS NUTS! I CAN BARELY FIRE MY WEBBING STRAIGHT!
THWIPP
IF FLASH REALLY IS THE HOBGOBLIN, I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!
BUT, IF HE ISN'T, HE NEEDS ME MORE THAN EVER!
OH, NO! WAS SO DIZZY I LET THE WEBBING SLIP FROM MY HAND--!
HAVE TO FLIP OVER AND LATCH ON TO THAT NEARBY WALL!
MADE IT--BUT, JUST BARELY!
EVERYTHING'S SPINNING! CAN'T CONCENTRATE!
DO I REALLY NEED THIS GRIEF?


MS. BANKS--! CAN YOU SPARE A MOMENT?
I'M JOE ROBERTSON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY BUGLE...
CAN'T YOU TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER, MR. ROBERTSON?
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOUR SECRETARY THAT I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS FLASH THOMPSON'S CASE WITH YOU--
--AND I MEANT IT!
I DON'T NEED THIS AGGRAVATION!
SLAM!
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST FORGET THOMPSON, AND CONCENTRATE ON MY OWN PERSONAL PROBLEMS!*
*SEE PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #117 -- OWZ!
EVEN AS AN IRATE JOE ROBERTSON EXITS SHARON BANKS'S LAW OFFICES, A STARTLING FIGURE SOARS HIGH ABOVE THE MANHATTAN SKYLINE...
IT WOULD BE A REAL LAUGH IF SOMEONE SPOTTED ME UP HERE, AND REPORTED ME TO X-FACTOR!
NO SIGN OF SPIDER-MAN YET! I HOPE THE OTHERS ARE--
"--HAVING BETTER LUCK!"
I WONDER HOW THE WEB-SWINGER'S GOING TO REACT WHEN HE LEARNS THAT X-FACTOR'S BEEN HIRED TO GET HIM?
WELL, WELL, LOOKS LIKE I'LL GET TO ASK HIM THAT QUESTION IN PERSON!
BETTER CONTACT THE OTHERS--!
THE BEAST HAS SPOTTED OUR TARGET!
HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH HIM-- AS MUTANTS, OR AS THE MUTANT HUNTERS?!
IT'S A GAMBLE EITHER WAY!
BUT, I THINK WE'D BETTER SLIP OFF THESE X-FACTOR JUMPSUITS IF WE DON'T WANT THE PUBLIC TO REALIZE THAT WE'RE FRATERNIZING WITH THE ENEMY!


HOWEVER, AT THAT MOMENT...
UGN! SPIDER-SENSE WARNING ME OF DANGER--
--FROM BEHIND!
UH-OH! HE SEES ME!
RELAX, WALL-CRAWLER! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
Y-YEAH, SURE! W-WHO ARE YOU? W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHOA! SLOW DOWN, AND I'LL EXPLAIN!
J-JUST KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE IN PAIN!
MAYBE I SHOULD...
C-CAN'T YOU HEAR?!
I...I TOLD YOU TO KEEP AWAY!
SUIT YOURSELF!
SHOULD HAVE REALIZED SPIDEY WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE ME--
--I WAS BLUE AND HAIRY THE LAST TIME WE MET!
YOU REALLY OUGHTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NASTY TEMPER, FELLA!
A-ANOTHER ONE--!
GOTCHA!
THIS GUY'S THE ANGEL, A FORMER X-MAN! WHY'S HE ATTACKING ME?
CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH HIM! WITH THE WAY MY HEAD'S STILL ACHING, I'M IN NO CONDITION FOR A PROLONGED BATTLE!
PWAM!

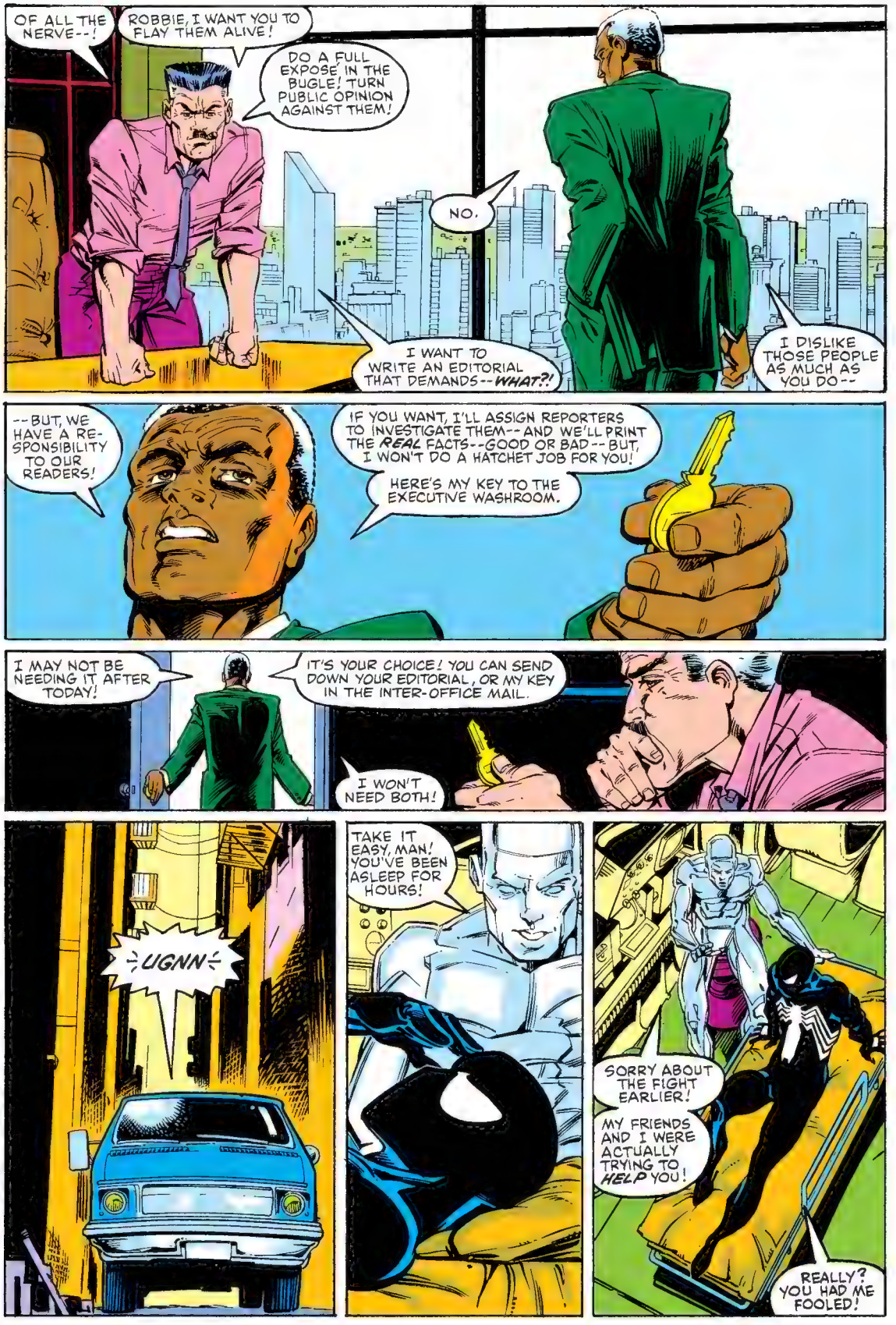

T-TAKE YOUR PAL BACK!
H-HE'D ONLY CLASH WITH THE REST OF MY BUTTERFLY COLLECTION!
UNN- DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, ANYMORE! DON'T EVEN WANT TO BE SPIDER-MAN!
I RECENTLY DECIDED TO RETIRE MY WEBS FOR GOOD,* BUT I CAN'T DO THAT WHILE MY FRIEND, FLASH THOMPSON, IS STILL IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW!
H-HEY..!
*ISSUE#275--OWZ!
LOOKS LIKE SOME NEW PEOPLE HAVE JOINED THE PARTY!
I RECOGNIZE SOME OF THESE JOKERS! THEY'RE FORMER X-MEN WHO NOW CALL THEMSELVES THE X-TERMINATORS--
--AND THEY'VE BEEN SEEN BATTLING THOSE ANTI-MUTANT X-FACTOR PEOPLE!*
WHY ARE THEY AFTER ME?!
*SEE X-FACTOR #7 --OWZ!
STOP IT, ICEMAN! YOU'RE ONLY ANTAGONIZING SPIDER-MAN!
YOU SAW THE WAY HE ATTACKED THE BEAST, AND THE ANGEL!
MAYBE JAMESON'S RIGHT! MAYBE HE IS A MENACE!
HEAD'S POUNDING SO LOUD THAT I CAN BARELY HEAR THEM!
BUT, IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE PREPARING TO ATTACK!
W-WELL, IF THERE'S GOT BE A FIGHT--
--IT'S GONNA BE ON MY TERMS!

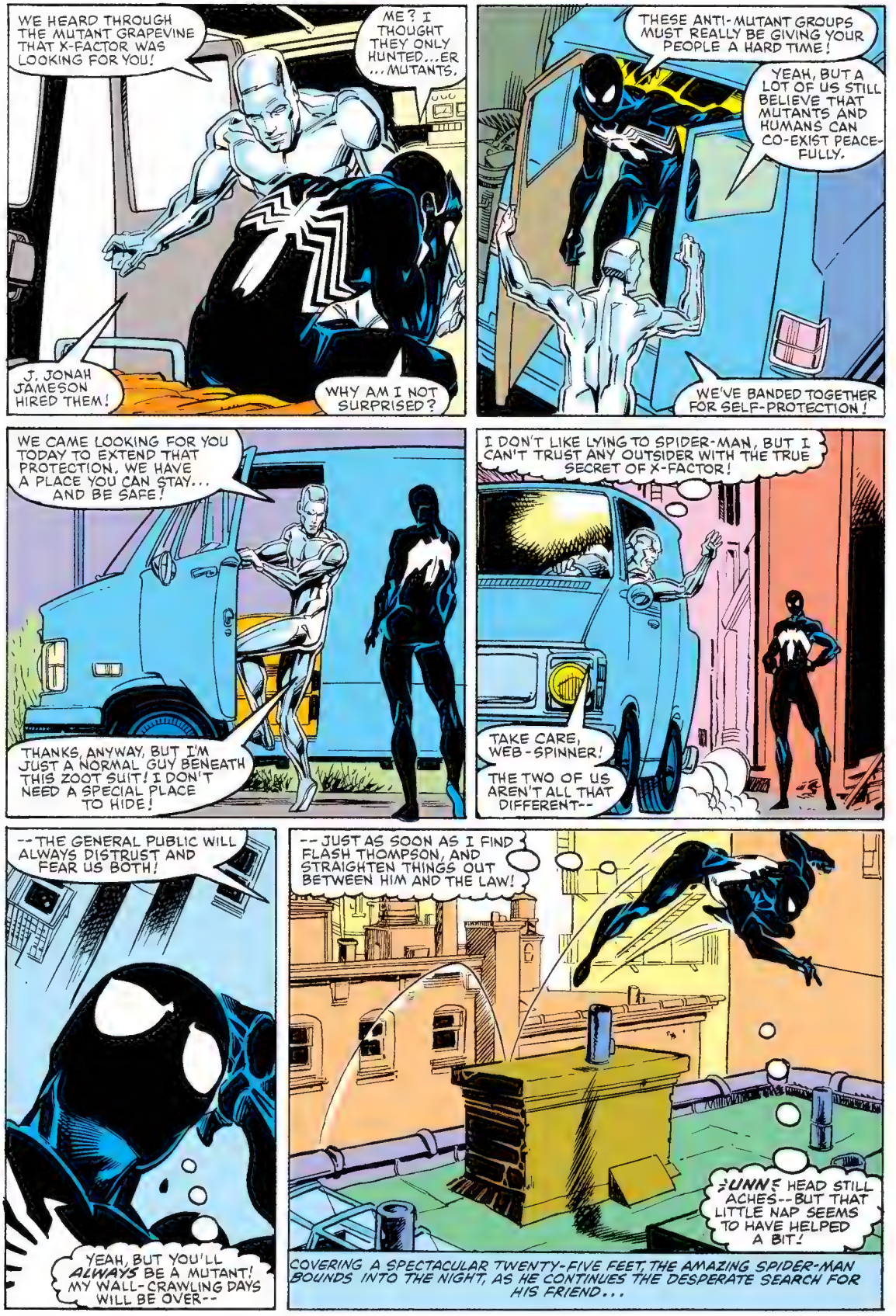

WHEW! WHAT A DAY! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO WAS ROUGHER ON ME...THE POLICE OR THE PRESS!
CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME, AND SLIP INTO A NICE WARM--
MS. BANKS--?
YOU'VE BEEN HOUNDING ME ALL DAY, MR. ROBERTSON! DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP?
NOT WHEN AN INNOCENT LIFE IS CONCERNED!
TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PICTURES! THEY MAY HELP YOU DEFEND YOUR CLIENT!
WHAT?!
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO HELP ME? AFTER ALL THE GRIEF I PUT YOU THROUGH?!
MR. ROBERTSON, MORE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE YOUR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY!
GOOD WORK, MARVEL GIRL! YOU'VE MANAGED TO ENSNARE HIM WITHIN A TELEKINETIC COCOON!
MAYBE WE CAN TALK NOW!
HURRY! C-CAN'T HOLD HIM MUCH LONGER!
E-EVERY MOMENT IS PURE AGONY--
--BUT, I GOTTA FORCE MY ARM FORWARD!
GOTTA KEEP FIGHTING!
GET DOWN!
MY EYEBEAM WILL PULVERIZE THAT DEBRIS BEFORE IT CAN STRIKE US!

C-CAN'T CONCENTRATE! IF ONLY MY HEAD WOULD CLEAR!
OH, NO! T-THE ONE CALLED BEAST IS SPRINGING FORWARD--!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE? W-WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY TURN BAD?
S-SOME OF YOU USED TO BE X-MEN! W-WHY'D YOU FORM THE X-TERMINATORS? W-WHY ATTACK ME?!
I-IS X-FACTOR RIGHT? A-ARE ALL MUTANTS A THREAT TO HUMANITY?!
ICEMAN, MANEUVER 14D!
RIGHT--!
ONE SUPER-DELUXE ICESLIDE AT YOUR SERVICE!
I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD, CYCLOPS!
AND, I'LL TAKE THE LOW!
ONLY ONE CHANCE--!
GOTTA FLIP MYSELF OUT OF THE PATH OF THEIR JOINT ATTACK!
OH, NO! I SENSE ANOTHER DANGER, BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE MY DIRECTION--!
GOT HIM!!
PWOK!
SO GREAT IS THE FORCE OF THE ANGEL'S BLOW THAT IT SENDS SPIDER-MAN CRASHING INTO MARVEL GIRL...

AND THEN...
JEANIE--!
I...I'M HER ONLY HOPE... EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS...LEAVING MYSELF...OPEN TO ANOTHER ATTACK!
G-GOTTA MAKE THIS ONE COUNT! W-WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE--!
THWIPP
C-CAN'T HOLD ON FOR LONG! H-HEAD'S REALLY POUNDING! EVERYTHING'S SPINNING! I...I'M STARTING TO LOSE IT...
H-HELP ME! P-PLEASEEEE!
HE...PASSED OUT!
GOOD! HE'LL NEVER HAVE TO KNOW THAT I COULD HAVE TELE-KINETICALLY SAVED MYSELF!
NOW WHAT--?
THAT'S THE QUESTION...
DO WE TURN HIM OVER TO J. JONAH JAMESON--OR DO WE TRY TO HELP HIM?
AFTER WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE...
...WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DO WE?!

DAILY BUGLE
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, ROBBIE?
JAMESON'S BEEN CRAWLING THE WALLS LOOKING FOR YOU!
HE WANTS YOU IN HIS OFFICE PRONTO!
I'M ALREADY ON MY WAY!
YOU WHAT--?!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE? JJJ DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HE'S VERY HAPPY!
WE ARE RETURNING YOUR RETAINER, MR. JAMESON. X-FACTOR CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR ASSIGNMENT.
WHY NOT?
AFTER EXTENSIVE RESEARCH, WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SPIDER-MAN IS NOT A MUTANT!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? I WANT THAT WEB-SWINGING STOOGE LOCKED UP!
PERHAPS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH ONE OF THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES!
WE ARE SPECIALISTS, SIR. WE ONLY DEAL WITH MUTANTS.
YOU'RE FRAUDS -- THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE--AND YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS MATTER!
HAVE A GOOD DAY, SIR.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL US IF YOU EVER HAVE A REAL MUTANT PROBLEM!


OF ALL THE NERVE--!
ROBBIE, I WANT YOU TO FLAY THEM ALIVE!
DO A FULL EXPOSE' IN THE BUGLE! TURN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THEM!
NO.
I WANT TO WRITE AN EDITORIAL THAT DEMANDS--WHAT?!
I DISLIKE THOSE PEOPLE AS MUCH AS YOU DO--
--BUT, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR READERS!
IF YOU WANT, I'LL ASSIGN REPORTERS TO INVESTIGATE THEM--AND WE'LL PRINT THE REAL FACTS--GOOD OR BAD--BUT, I WON'T DO A HATCHET JOB FOR YOU!
HERE'S MY KEY TO THE EXECUTIVE WASHROOM.
I MAY NOT BE NEEDING IT AFTER TODAY!
IT'S YOUR CHOICE! YOU CAN SEND DOWN YOUR EDITORIAL, OR MY KEY IN THE INTER-OFFICE MAIL.
I WON'T NEED BOTH!
÷UGNN÷
TAKE IT EASY, MAN! YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR HOURS!
SORRY ABOUT THE FIGHT EARLIER!
MY FRIENDS AND I WERE ACTUALLY TRYING TO HELP YOU!
REALLY? YOU HAD ME FOOLED!


WE HEARD THROUGH THE MUTANT GRAPEVINE THAT X-FACTOR WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
ME? I THOUGHT THEY ONLY HUNTED...ER ...MUTANTS.
J. JONAH JAMESON HIRED THEM!
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
THESE ANTI-MUTANT GROUPS MUST REALLY BE GIVING YOUR PEOPLE A HARD TIME!
YEAH, BUT A LOT OF US STILL BELIEVE THAT MUTANTS AND HUMANS CAN CO-EXIST PEACE-FULLY.
WE'VE BANDED TOGETHER FOR SELF-PROTECTION!
WE CAME LOOKING FOR YOU TODAY TO EXTEND THAT PROTECTION, WE HAVE A PLACE YOU CAN STAY... AND BE SAFE!
THANKS, ANYWAY, BUT I'M JUST A NORMAL GUY BENEATH THIS ZOOT SUIT! I DON'T NEED A SPECIAL PLACE TO HIDE!
I DON'T LIKE LYING TO SPIDER-MAN, BUT I CAN'T TRUST ANY OUTSIDER WITH THE TRUE SECRET OF X-FACTOR!
TAKE CARE, WEB-SPINNER!
THE TWO OF US AREN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT--
--THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL ALWAYS DISTRUST AND FEAR US BOTH!
YEAH, BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A MUTANT! MY WALL-CRAWLING DAYS WILL BE OVER--
--JUST AS SOON AS I FIND FLASH THOMPSON, AND STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT BETWEEN HIM AND THE LAW!
UNNH HEAD STILL ACHES--BUT THAT LITTLE NAP SEEMS TO HAVE HELPED A BIT!
COVERING A SPECTACULAR TWENTY-FIVE FEET, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN BOUNDS INTO THE NIGHT, AS HE CONTINUES THE DESPERATE SEARCH FOR HIS FRIEND...

DAILY BUGLE
INTER-OFFICE MAIL FOR YOU, MR. ROBERTSON!
THANK YOU, JOHN.
INTER-OFFICE
ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU CAN REALLY BE AN UNSWERVING, UNREASONABLE, PIG-HEADED, OLD GOAT ON OCCASION?
I LEARNED FROM A MASTER!
÷HARRUMPF÷ CARE FOR A DRINK AFTER WORK?
I'D PREFER A COFFEE!
THAT BIT WITH THE KEY WAS REAL IMPRESSIVE. I NEVER REALIZED YOU HAD SUCH A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC.
WELL, SOMETIMES THE END DOES JUSTIFY THE MEANS!

MARVEL®
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
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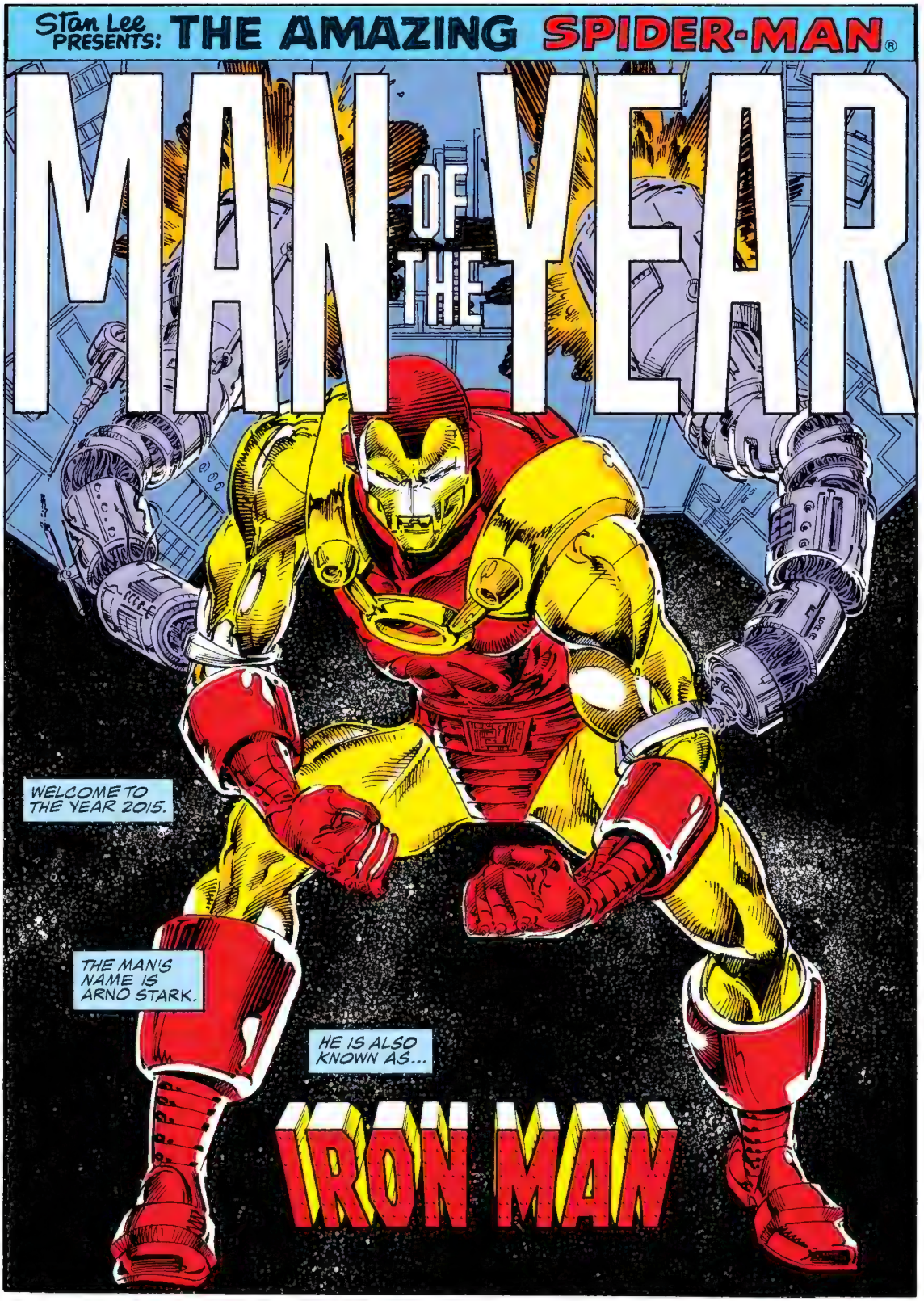
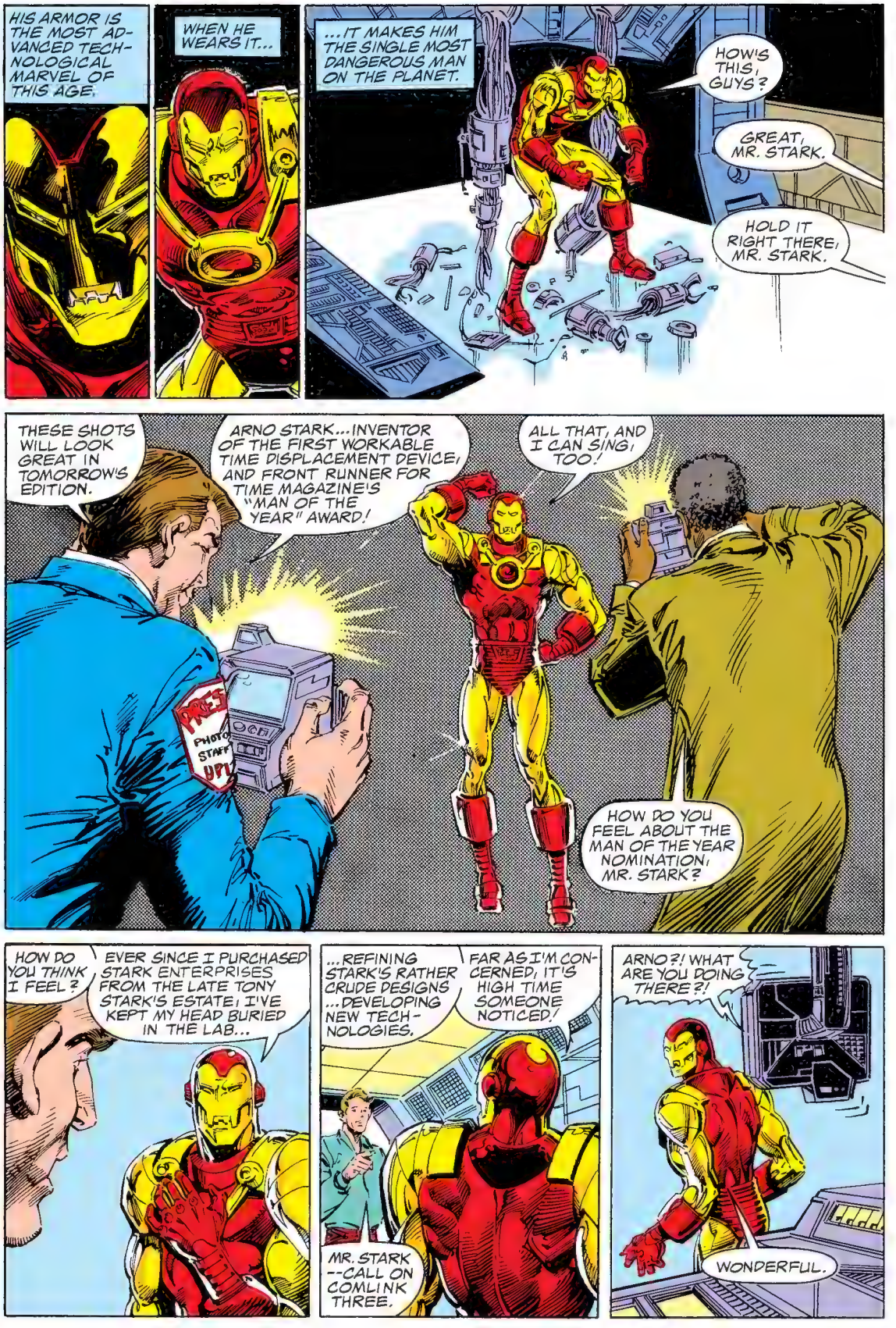
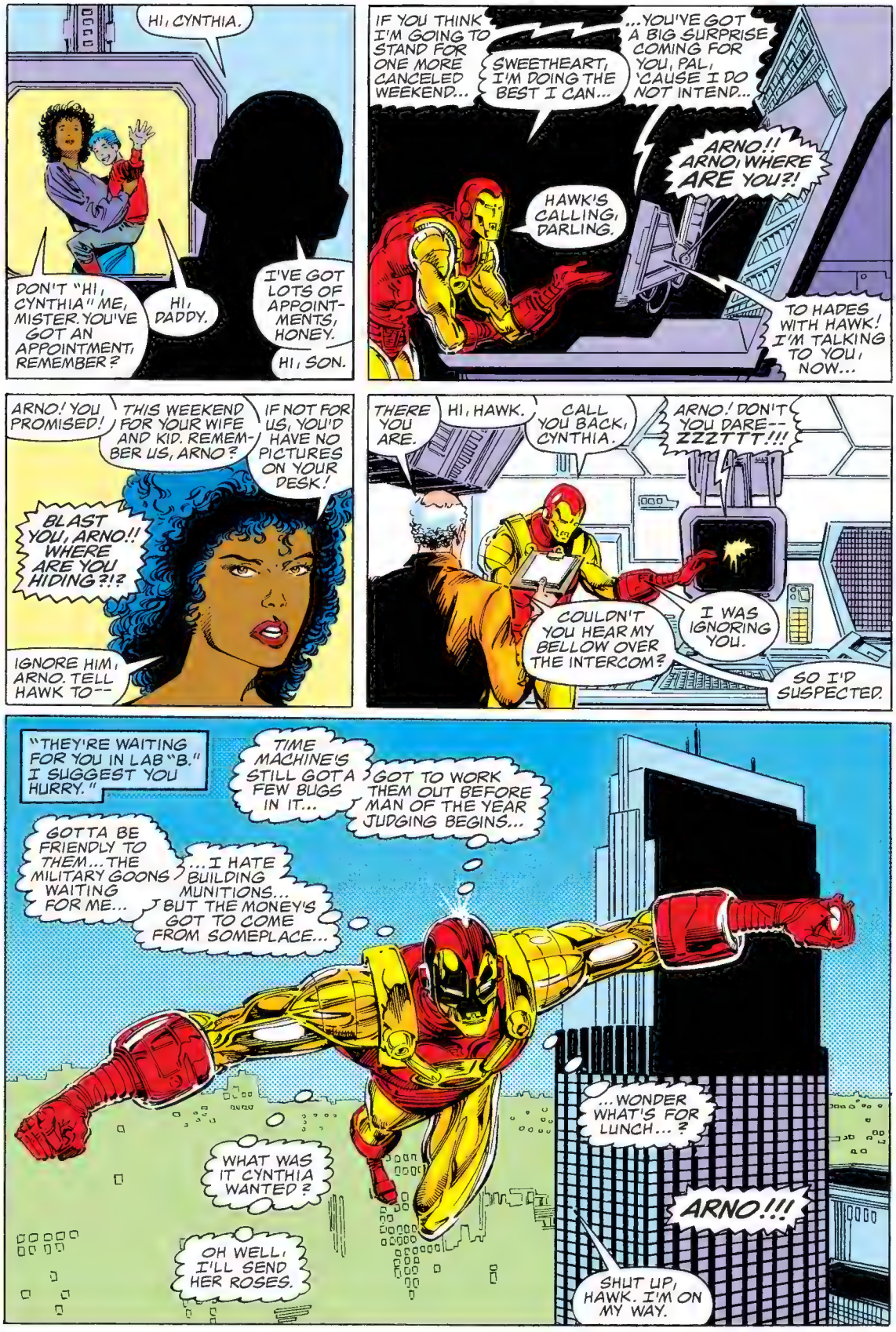
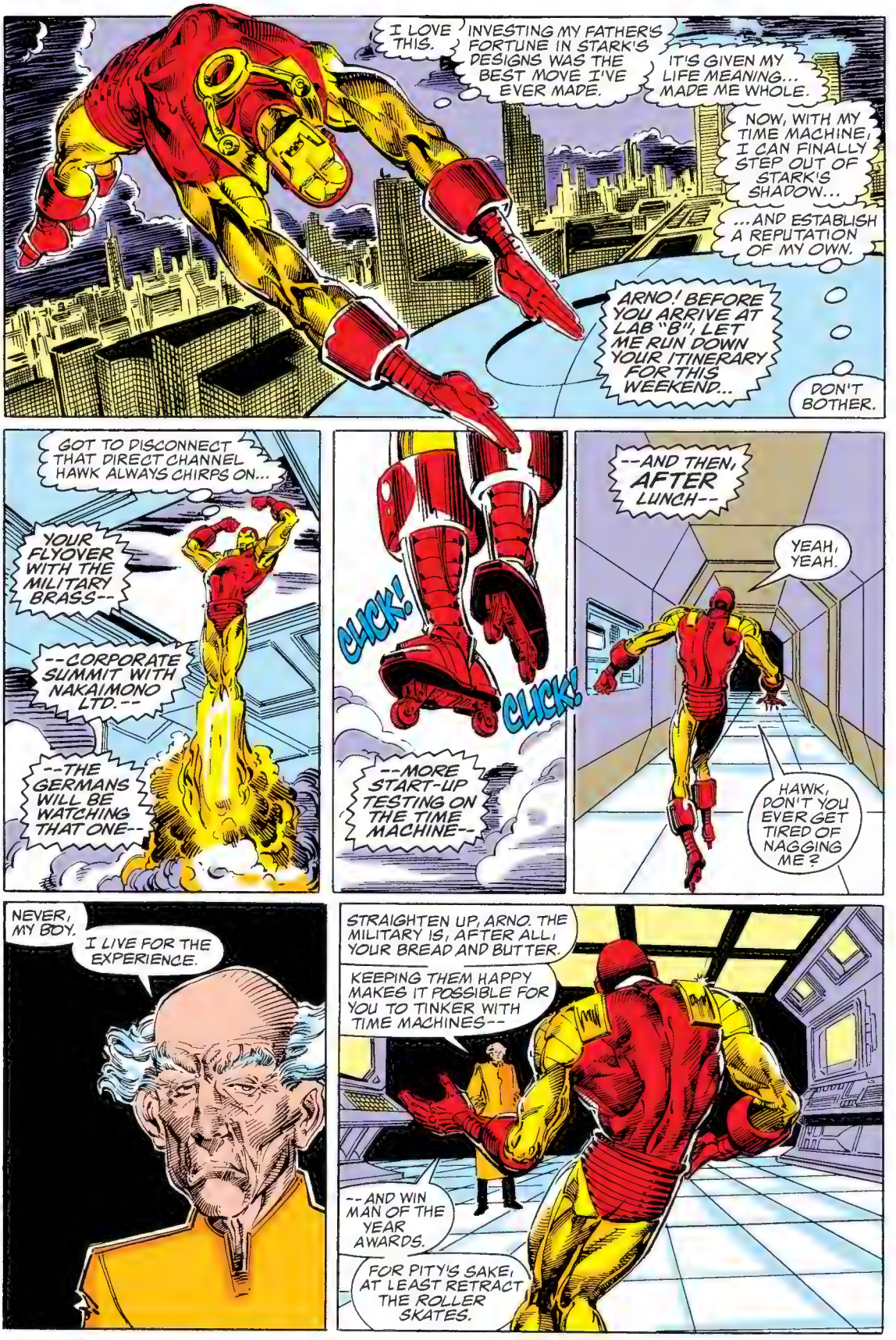
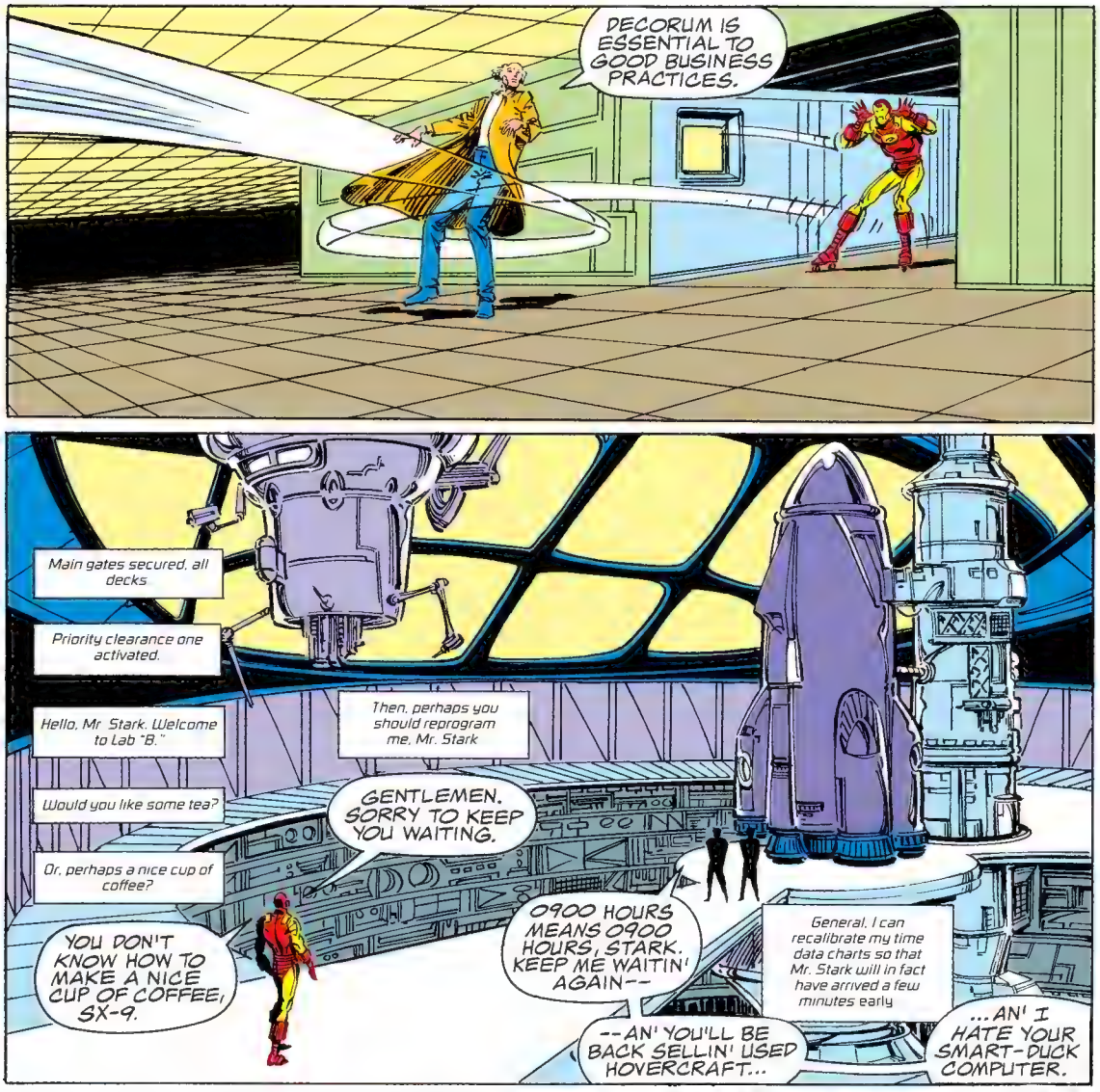
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GIANT-SIZED ANNUAL
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® ANNUAL
HE'S BACK!
THE IRON MAN OF 2020!
AND SPIDEY'S IN FOR THE FIGHT OF HIS LIFE!

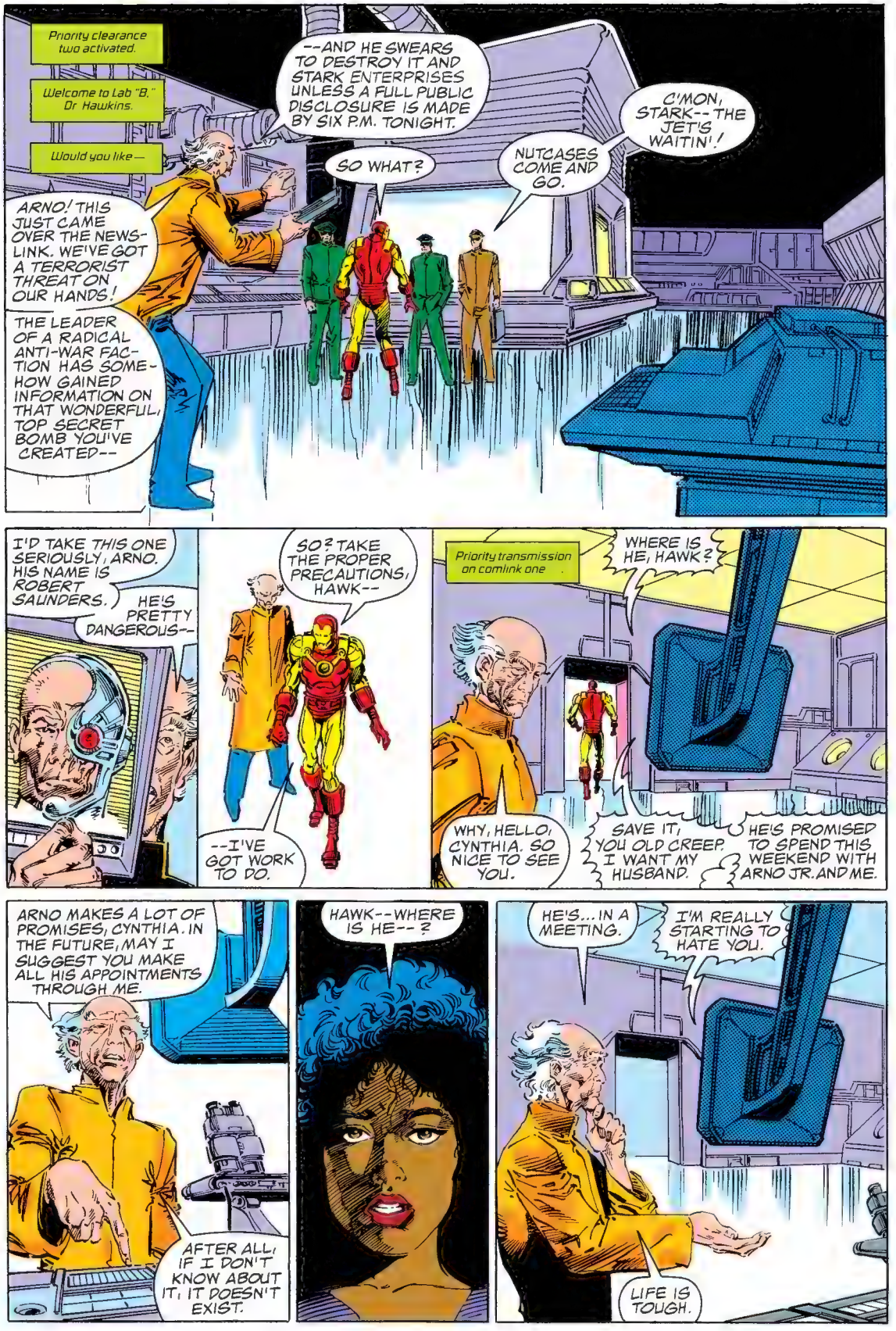

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
MAN OF THE YEAR
WELCOME TO THE YEAR 2015.
THE MAN'S NAME IS ARNO STARK.
HE IS ALSO KNOWN AS...
IRON MAN


HIS ARMOR IS THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL MARVEL OF THIS AGE.
WHEN HE WEARS IT...
...IT MAKES HIM THE SINGLE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ON THE PLANET.
HOW'S THIS, GUYS?
GREAT, MR. STARK.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MR. STARK.
THESE SHOTS WILL LOOK GREAT IN TOMORROW'S EDITION.
ARNO STARK...INVENTOR OF THE FIRST WORKABLE TIME DISPLACEMENT DEVICE, AND FRONT RUNNER FOR TIME MAGAZINE'S "MAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD!
ALL THAT, AND I CAN SING, TOO!
PRESS
PHOTO STAFF
UPI
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE MAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION, MR. STARK?
HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL?
EVER SINCE I PURCHASED STARK ENTERPRISES FROM THE LATE TONY STARK'S ESTATE, I'VE KEPT MY HEAD BURIED IN THE LAB...
...REFINING STARK'S RATHER CRUDE DESIGNS ...DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES.
FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEONE NOTICED!
MR. STARK --CALL ON COMLINK THREE.
ARNO?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!
WONDERFUL.

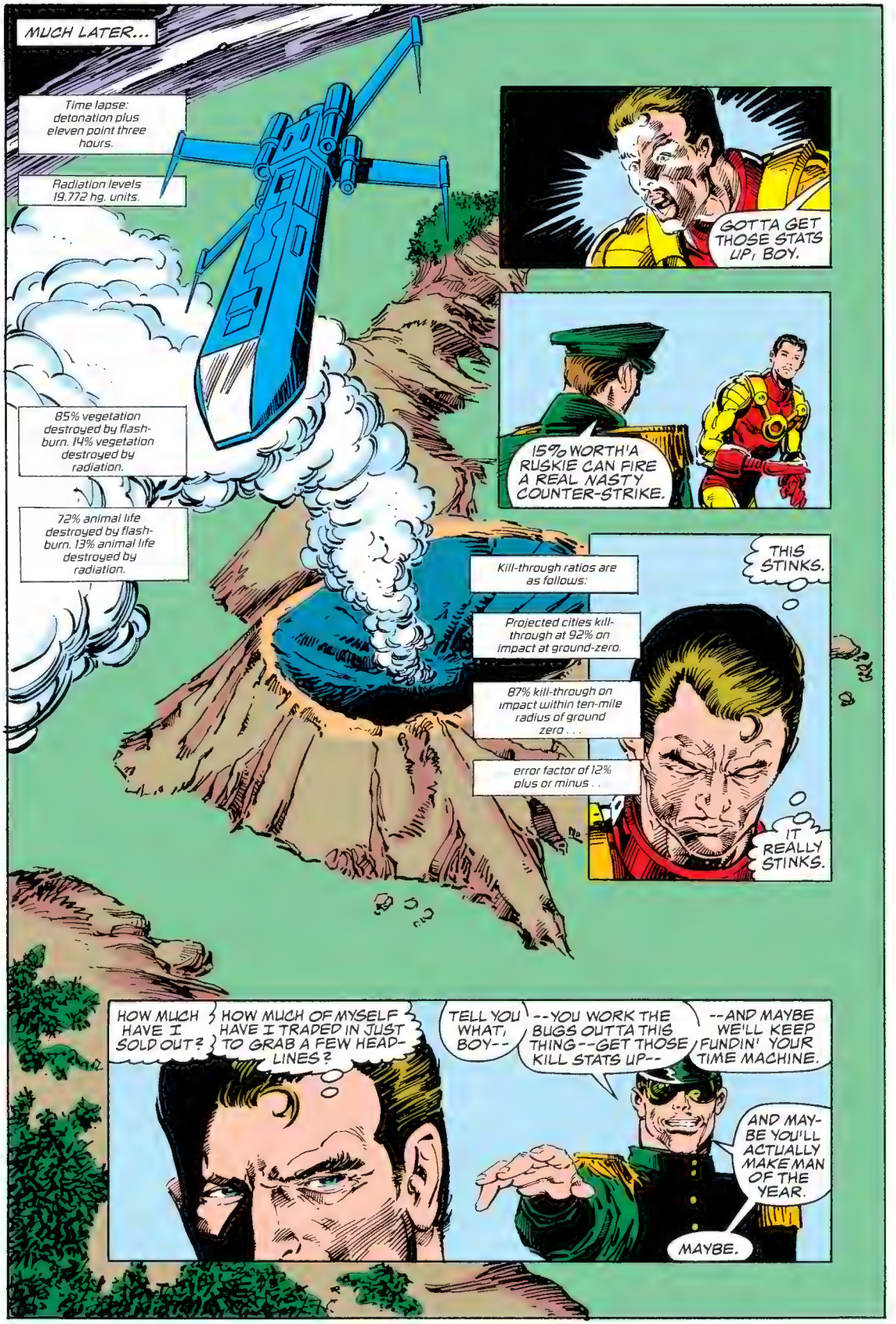

HI, CYNTHIA.
DON'T "HI, CYNTHIA" ME, MISTER. YOU'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT, REMEMBER?
HI, DADDY.
I'VE GOT LOTS OF APPOINTMENTS, HONEY.
HI, SON.
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO STAND FOR ONE MORE CANCELED WEEKEND...
SWEETHEART, I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN...
...YOU'VE GOT A BIG SURPRISE COMING FOR YOU, PAL, 'CAUSE I DO NOT INTEND...
ARNO!! ARNO, WHERE ARE YOU?!
HAWK'S CALLING, DARLING.
TO HADES WITH HAWK! I'M TALKING TO YOU, NOW...
ARNO! YOU PROMISED!
THIS WEEKEND FOR YOUR WIFE AND KID. REMEMBER US, ARNO?
IF NOT FOR US, YOU'D HAVE NO PICTURES ON YOUR DESK!
BLAST YOU, ARNO!! WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?!?
IGNORE HIM, ARNO. TELL HAWK TO--
THERE YOU ARE.
HI, HAWK.
CALL YOU BACK, CYNTHIA.
ARNO! DON'T YOU DARE-- ZZZTTT.!!!
COULDN'T YOU HEAR MY BELLOW OVER THE INTERCOM?
I WAS IGNORING YOU.
SO I'D SUSPECTED.
"THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU IN LAB "B." I SUGGEST YOU HURRY."
TIME MACHINE'S STILL GOT A FEW BUGS IN IT...
GOT TO WORK THEM OUT BEFORE MAN OF THE YEAR JUDGING BEGINS...
GOTTA BE FRIENDLY TO THEM... THE MILITARY GOONS WAITING FOR ME...
...I HATE BUILDING MUNITIONS... BUT THE MONEY'S GOT TO COME FROM SOMEPLACE...
...WONDER WHAT'S FOR LUNCH...?
ARNO!!!
WHAT WAS IT CYNTHIA WANTED?
OH WELL, I'LL SEND HER ROSES.
SHUT UP, HAWK. I'M ON MY WAY.


I LOVE THIS.
INVESTING MY FATHER'S FORTUNE IN STARK'S DESIGNS WAS THE BEST MOVE I'VE EVER MADE.
IT'S GIVEN MY LIFE MEANING... MADE ME WHOLE.
NOW, WITH MY TIME MACHINE, I CAN FINALLY STEP OUT OF STARK'S SHADOW...
...AND ESTABLISH A REPUTATION OF MY OWN.
ARNO! BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT LAB "B", LET ME RUN DOWN YOUR ITINERARY FOR THIS WEEKEND...
DON'T BOTHER.
GOT TO DISCONNECT THAT DIRECT CHANNEL HAWK ALWAYS CHIRPS ON...
YOUR FLYOVER WITH THE MILITARY BRASS--
--CORPORATE SUMMIT WITH NAKAIMONO LTD.--
--THE GERMANS WILL BE WATCHING THAT ONE--
CLICK!
CLICK!
--MORE START-UP TESTING ON THE TIME MACHINE--
--AND THEN, AFTER LUNCH--
YEAH, YEAH.
HAWK, DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF NAGGING ME?
NEVER, MY BOY.
I LIVE FOR THE EXPERIENCE.
STRAIGHTEN UP, ARNO. THE MILITARY IS, AFTER ALL, YOUR BREAD AND BUTTER.
KEEPING THEM HAPPY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TINKER WITH TIME MACHINES--
--AND WIN MAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS.
FOR PITY'S SAKE, AT LEAST RETRACT THE ROLLER SKATES.


DECORUM IS ESSENTIAL TO GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICES.
Main gates secured, all decks
Priority clearance one activated.
Hello, Mr. Stark. Welcome to Lab "B."
Would you like some tea?
Or, perhaps a nice cup of coffee?
Then, perhaps you should reprogram me, Mr. Stark
GENTLEMEN. SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE A NICE CUP OF COFFEE, SX-9.
0900 HOURS MEANS 0900 HOURS, STARK. KEEP ME WAITIN' AGAIN--
General, I can recalibrate my time data charts so that Mr. Stark will in fact have arrived a few minutes early
--AN' YOU'LL BE BACK SELLIN' USED HOVERCRAFT...
...AN' I HATE YOUR SMART-DUCK COMPUTER.
LET'S GET DOWN TO IT. WEAPON MK-3--THE PLANET BUSTER BOMB.
A GREAT ADVANCEMENT TO MANKIND--THOUGH NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT. ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE OUTLAWED IN THE SALT VI AGREEMENTS.
OUR ABILITY TO LIVE FREE AND ENJOY OUR HUMAN RIGHTS HANGS ON OUR ABILITY TO DESTROY THE ENEMY.
QUICKLY AND CLEANLY.
IT'S FRIGHTENING HOW COMFORTABLE THESE GUYS LOOK STANDING IN FRONT OF THAT BOMB.
THE RADION COUNT OVER THAT PROTOTYPE WE EXPLODED LAST NIGHT SHOULD BE DOWN TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS.
THE ION SCREEN YOU PLACED OVER THE AREA KEPT THE RUSKIES FROM EVER KNOWING ABOUT IT.
YEAH, YOU'RE REAL SLICK, MISTER.
JUST DON'T FORGET WHO'S CALLING THE SHOTS AROUND HERE.

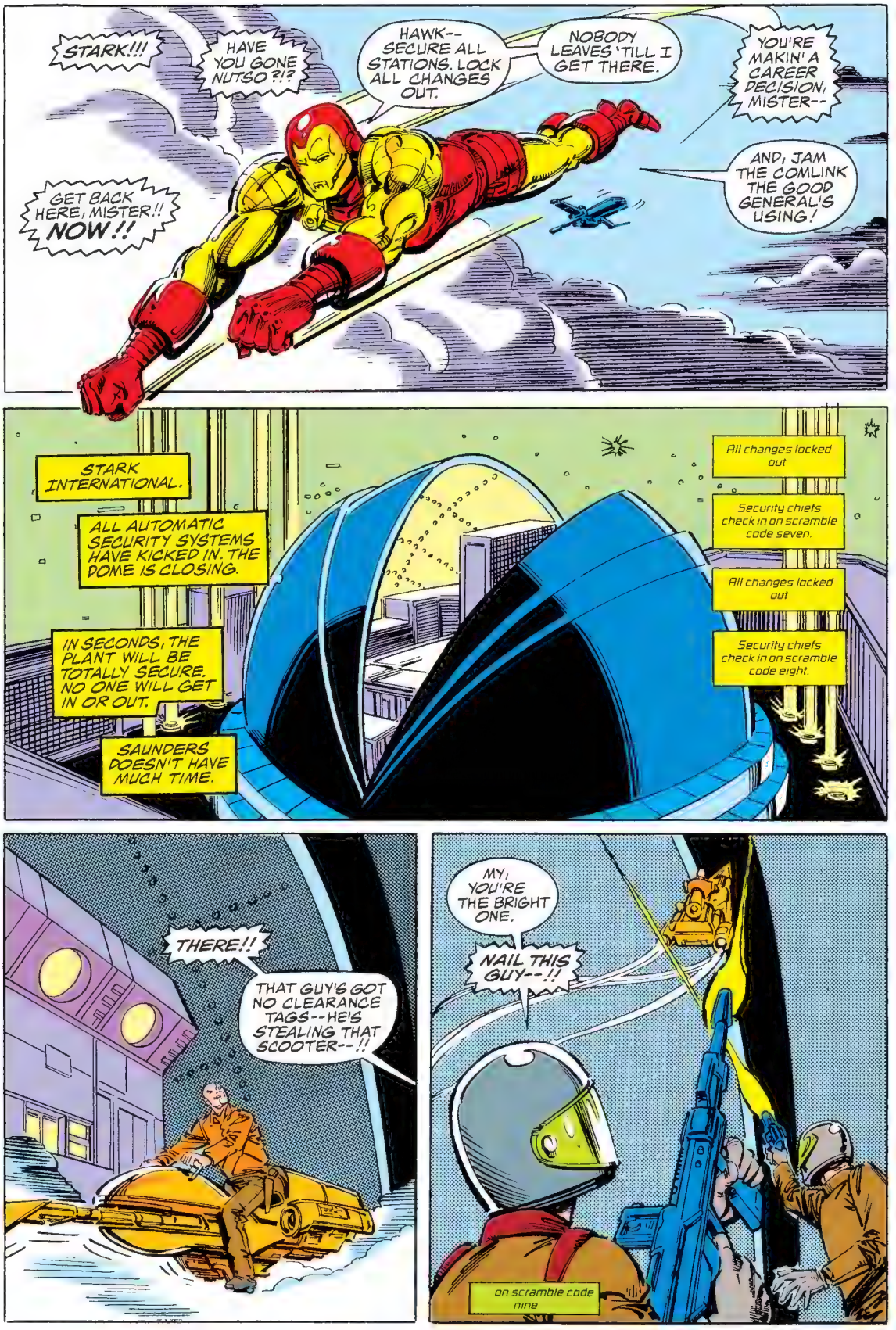

Priority clearance two activated.
Welcome to Lab "B," Dr. Hawkins.
Would you like—
ARNO! THIS JUST CAME OVER THE NEWS-LINK. WE'VE GOT A TERRORIST THREAT ON OUR HANDS!
THE LEADER OF A RADICAL ANTI-WAR FAC-TION HAS SOME-HOW GAINED INFORMATION ON THAT WONDERFUL, TOP SECRET BOMB YOU'VE CREATED--
--AND HE SWEARS TO DESTROY IT AND STARK ENTERPRISES UNLESS A FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE IS MADE BY SIX P.M. TONIGHT.
SO WHAT?
NUTCASES COME AND GO.
C'MON, STARK-- THE JET'S WAITIN'!
I'D TAKE THIS ONE SERIOUSLY, ARNO. HIS NAME IS ROBERT SAUNDERS.
HE'S PRETTY DANGEROUS--
SO? TAKE THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS, HAWK--
--I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
Priority transmission on comlink one
WHERE IS HE, HAWK?
WHY, HELLO, CYNTHIA. SO NICE TO SEE YOU.
SAVE IT, YOU OLD CREEP. I WANT MY HUSBAND.
HE'S PROMISED TO SPEND THIS WEEKEND WITH ARNO JR. AND ME.
ARNO MAKES A LOT OF PROMISES, CYNTHIA. IN THE FUTURE, MAY I SUGGEST YOU MAKE ALL HIS APPOINTMENTS THROUGH ME.
AFTER ALL, IF I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, IT DOESN'T EXIST.
HAWK--WHERE IS HE-- ?
HE'S... IN A MEETING.
I'M REALLY STARTING TO HATE YOU.
LIFE IS TOUGH.

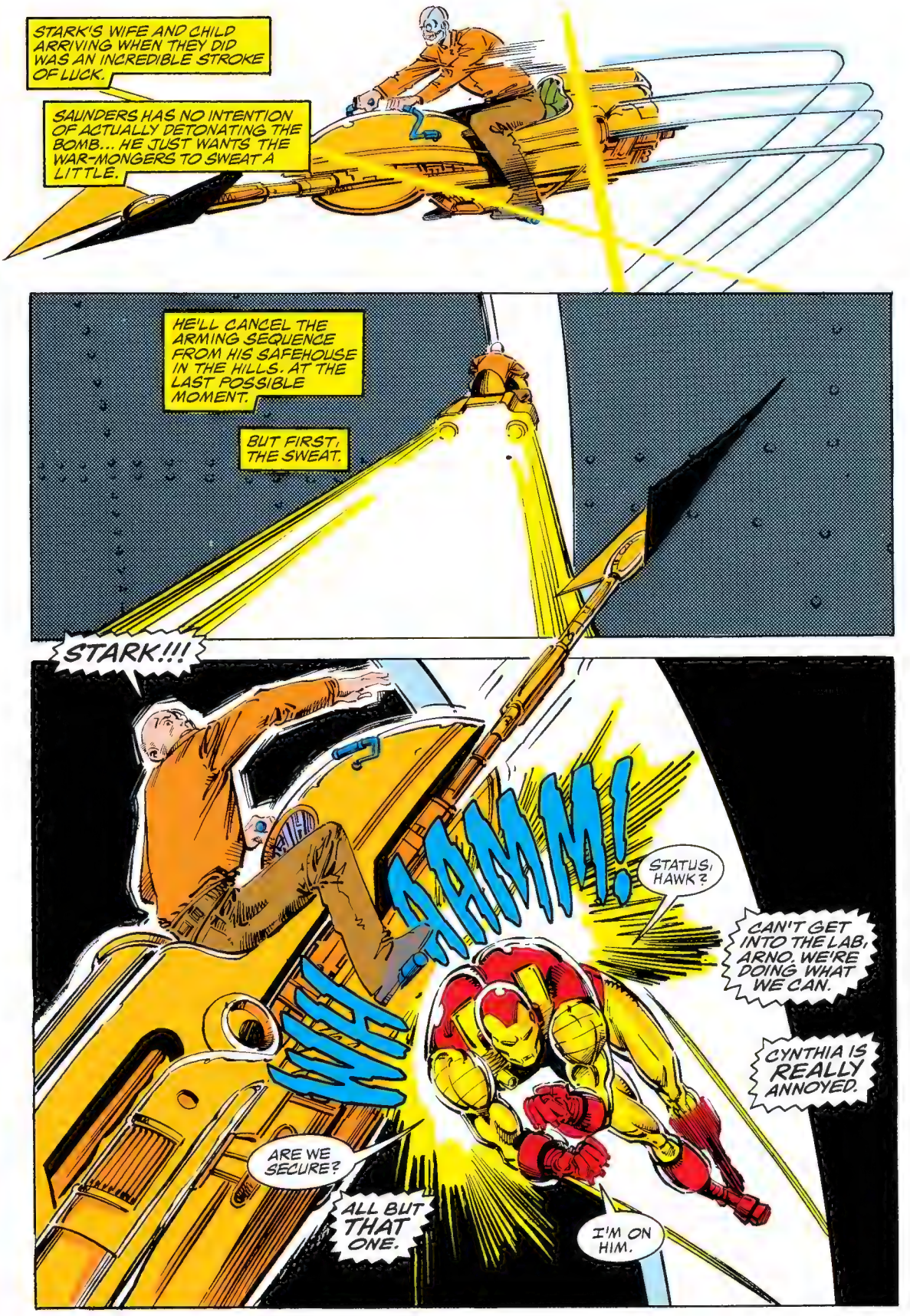
HAWK!!
HE CUT THE COMLINK--
HOW DARE HE?!
ARNO'S IN ON THIS, TOO! THOSE TWO OUGHT TO GET MARRIED!
TWO OF A KIND.
THEY'RE OVER IN THE LAB HAVING A GOOD TIME...
...I'M STUCK HERE AT HOME, SURROUNDED BY HUNGRY REPORTERS!
REPORTERS WHO ALL WANT A GLIMPSE OF THE MAN OF THE YEAR!!
WE'D LIKE A GLIMPSE OF HIM, TOO, WOULDN'T WE?
ALWAYS PUTS ME ON HOLD.
YES, MOM.
NEVER COMES HOME WHEN HE SAYS HE'S COMING HOME...
NEVER SPENDS ANY TIME WITH HIS FAMILY...
WELL, HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY WITH IT THIS TIME...
YOUR CAR IS READY, MA'AM.
COME HERE.
LET'S GET YOU BUTTONED UP.
WE'RE GOING DOWN TO YOUR FATHER'S LAB.
HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY WITH STANDING US UP AGAIN.
HOLD STILL.
I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM.
YES, MOM.
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS...?


MUCH LATER...
Time lapse: detonation plus eleven point three hours.
Radiation levels 19.772 hg. units.
85% vegetation destroyed by flash-burn. 14% vegetation destroyed by radiation.
72% animal life destroyed by flash-burn. 13% animal life destroyed by radiation.
GOTTA GET THOSE STATS UP, BOY.
15% WORTH'A RUSKIE CAN FIRE A REAL NASTY COUNTER-STRIKE.
Kill-through ratios are as follows:
Projected cities kill-through at 92% on impact at ground-zero.
87% kill-through on impact within ten-mile radius of ground zero . . .
error factor of 12% plus or minus . .
THIS STINKS.
IT REALLY STINKS.
HOW MUCH HAVE I SOLD OUT?
HOW MUCH OF MYSELF HAVE I TRADED IN JUST TO GRAB A FEW HEAD-LINES?
TELL YOU WHAT, BOY--
--YOU WORK THE BUGS OUTTA THIS THING--GET THOSE KILL STATS UP--
--AND MAYBE WE'LL KEEP FUNDIN' YOUR TIME MACHINE.
AND MAY-BE YOU'LL ACTUALLY MAKE MAN OF THE YEAR.
MAYBE.

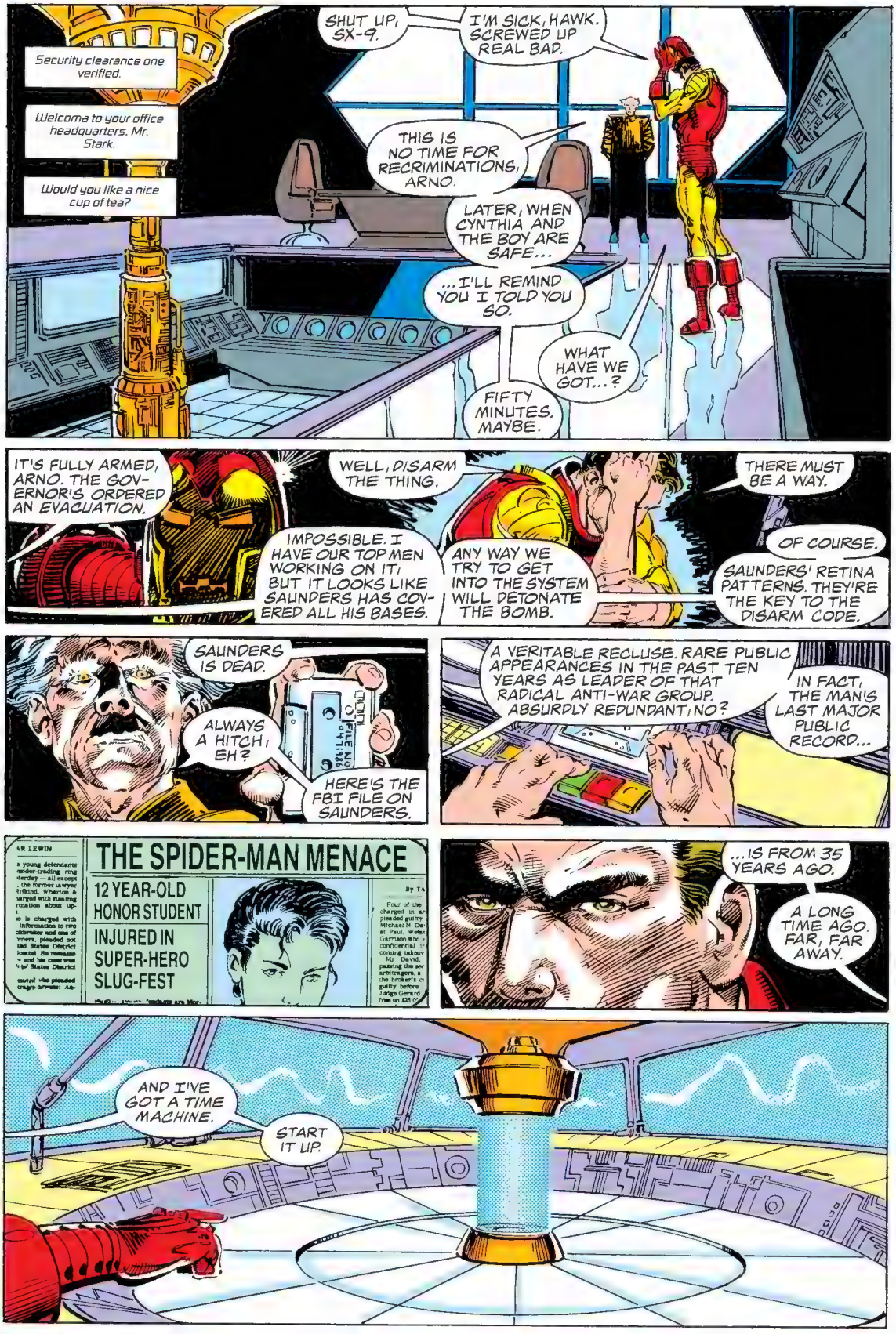
SOON, BACK AT STARK INTERNATIONAL...
ARMED
ZZAAXX!!
HIS NAME IS ROBERT SAUNDERS.
HE WARNED THEM NOT TO BUILD THE BOMB. HE PLEADED WITH THEM.
NOW, HE MUST ACT.
HEY!!
HAVE YOU SEEN MY DADDY?
STARK'S SON, ARNO JR.
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR FATHER IS, SON.
WHY, HE'S ARNO STARK! HE'S THE BOSS HERE!
ARNO! STOP PESTERING THAT TECHNICIAN!
COME ON, LET'S CHECK OUT LAB "B".
GOOD THING YOUR FATHER GAVE ME A SECURITY THREE CLEARANCE...
GOOD-BYE, MISTER!
THE BOY... SO YOUNG.
SO INNOCENT.
ROBERT SAUNDERS REMEMBERS WHEN HE WAS AN INNOCENT.
HE ALSO REMEMBERS WHO TOOK THAT INNOCENCE AWAY.
THEN HE REMEMBERS HIS MISSION. WHAT MUST BE DONE.

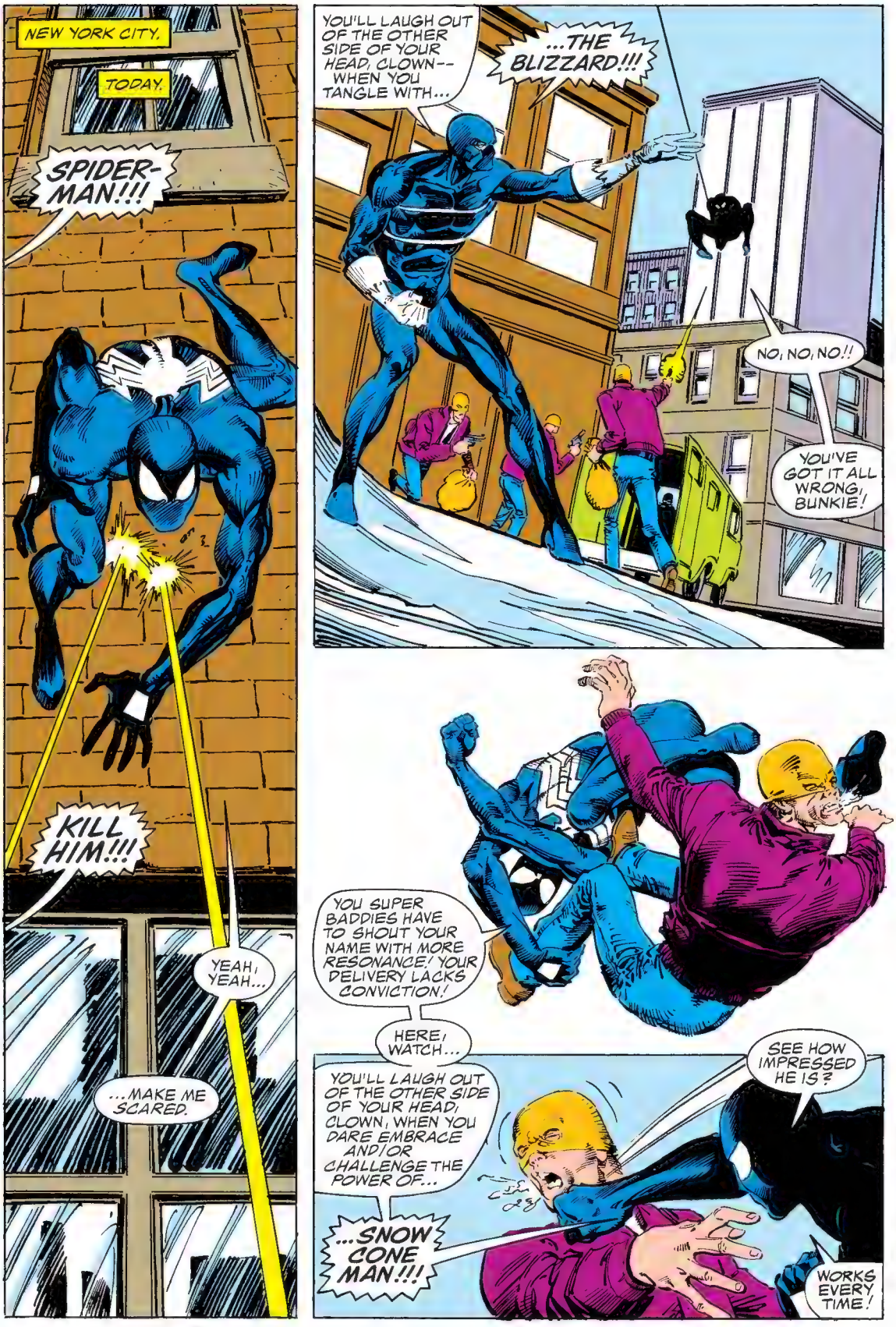
LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER...
RED ALERT
HAVE WE GOT IT ISOLATED?
YES, SIR, DR. HAWKINS--LAB "B"!
THE ONE WITH THE BOMB IN IT...?!
THAT'S THE ONE.
OH, GOOD.
Security shutdown sequence sector 6...
Security shutdown sequence sector 7...
Security shutdown sequence sector 8...
Security shutdown sequence section 11...
Security shutdown sequence sector 12.
ComLink with Air Transport Seven scrambled and locked, Dr. Hawkins...
WHAT'S UP, HAWK?
REMEMBER THAT TERRORIST I WARNED YOU ABOUT EARLIER, ARNO?
LOOK, I'M A LITTLE BUSY HERE, HAWK.
WE'VE GOT A FULL SCALE LOCKOUT RUNNING, ARNO. NO GAMES.
SOMEHOW THAT SAUNDERS NUT HAS LOCKED US OUT OF LAB "B"...HE'S ARMED THE PLANET BUSTER BOMB...
Security shutdown sequence sector 21...
Security shutdown sequence sector 22...
HAWK... PLEASE...JUST HANDLE IT, OKAY?
HE'S GOT YOUR WIFE, ARNO.


STARK!!!
HAVE YOU GONE NUTSO?!?
HAWK--SECURE ALL STATIONS. LOCK ALL CHANGES OUT.
NOBODY LEAVES 'TILL I GET THERE.
YOU'RE MAKIN' A CAREER DECISION, MISTER--
AND, JAM THE COMLINK THE GOOD GENERAL'S USING!
GET BACK HERE, MISTER!! NOW!!
STARK INTERNATIONAL.
ALL AUTOMATIC SECURITY SYSTEMS HAVE KICKED IN. THE DOME IS CLOSING.
IN SECONDS, THE PLANT WILL BE TOTALLY SECURE. NO ONE WILL GET IN OR OUT.
SAUNDERS DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
All changes locked out
Security chiefs check in on scramble code seven.
All changes locked out
Security chiefs check in on scramble code eight.
THERE!!
THAT GUY'S GOT NO CLEARANCE TAGS--HE'S STEALING THAT SCOOTER--!!
MY, YOU'RE THE BRIGHT ONE.
NAIL THIS GUY--!!
on scramble code nine


STARK'S WIFE AND CHILD ARRIVING WHEN THEY DID WAS AN INCREDIBLE STROKE OF LUCK.
SAUNDERS HAS NO INTENTION OF ACTUALLY DETONATING THE BOMB... HE JUST WANTS THE WAR-MONGERS TO SWEAT A LITTLE.
HE'LL CANCEL THE ARMING SEQUENCE FROM HIS SAFEHOUSE IN THE HILLS. AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.
BUT FIRST, THE SWEAT.
STARK!!!
WHAMM!
STATUS, HAWK?
CAN'T GET INTO THE LAB, ARNO. WE'RE DOING WHAT WE CAN.
CYNTHIA IS REALLY ANNOYED.
ARE WE SECURE?
ALL BUT THAT ONE.
I'M ON HIM.

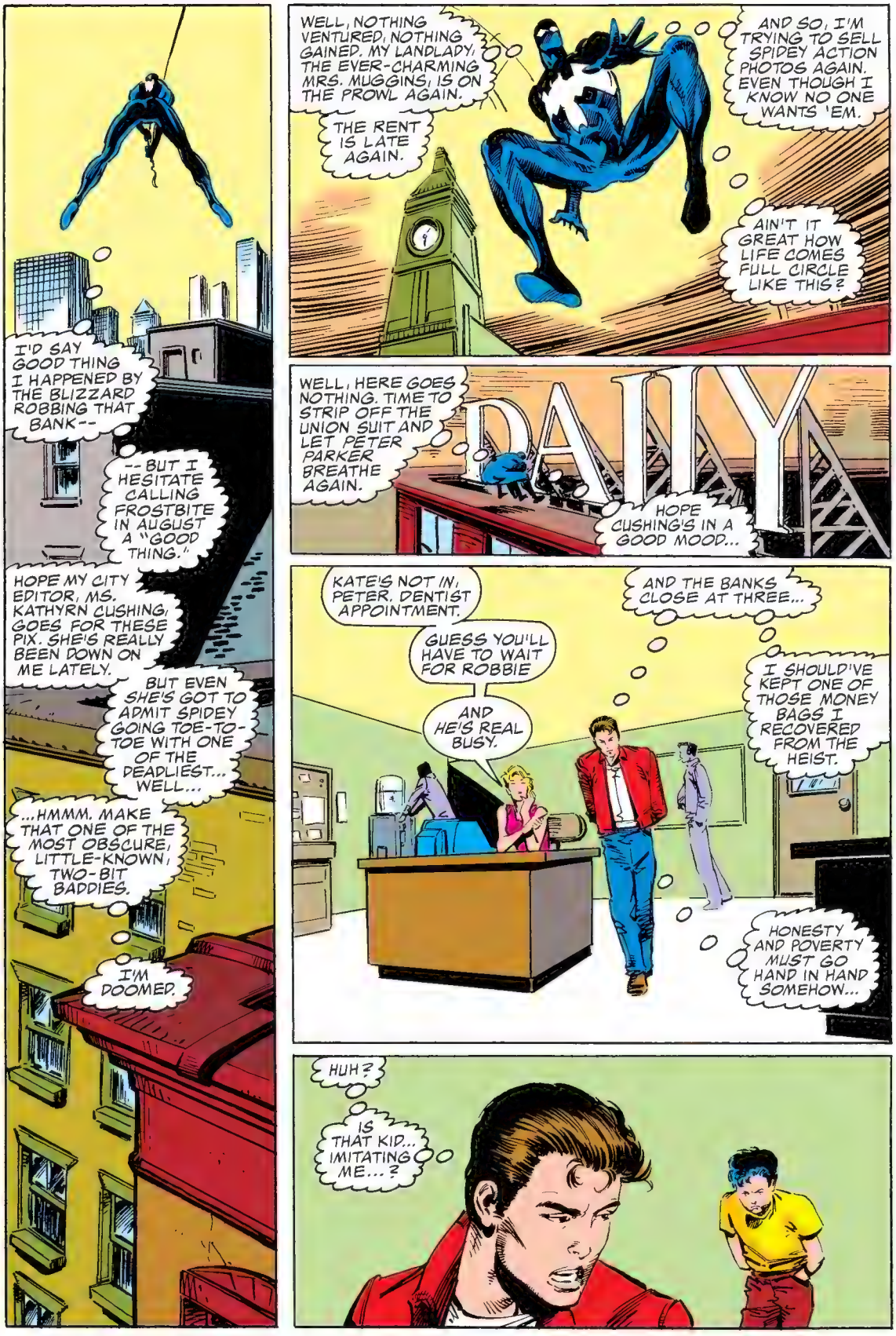
SAUNDERS FIRES A HIGH INTENSITY PLASMA BOLT AT IRON MAN.
HE MIGHT JUST AS WELL HAVE SPIT AT HIM FOR ALL THE EFFECT IT HAS.
ARNO, I THINK THAT'S OUR BOY. BE CAREFUL WITH HIM.
I'LL SNAG HIM WITH MY RETRACTOR BEAM.
SAUNDERS GUNS HIS ENGINES, MAKING A LAST ATTEMPT TO GET THROUGH THE SWIFTLY NARROWING GAP IN THE DOME'S CLOSING WALLS.
IRON MAN'S BEAM COMES TOO LATE.
THIS JUST ISN'T HIS DAY.
KAABLOOM!
LOST HIM, HAWK.
I NOTICED.
BAD NEWS, ARNO--
--ROBERT SAUNDERS WAS OUR ONLY HOPE. NOW HE'S SPREAD ALL OVER THE EAST DOME.
MR. STARK-- COULD WE HAVE A STATEMENT...?
HOW DO YOU FEEL--
YOUR WIFE AND KID...
GET OUT OF HERE...
... BEFORE I THROW YOU OUT!
SHEESH... SOME "MAN OF THE YEAR!"
WOTTA GROUCH...

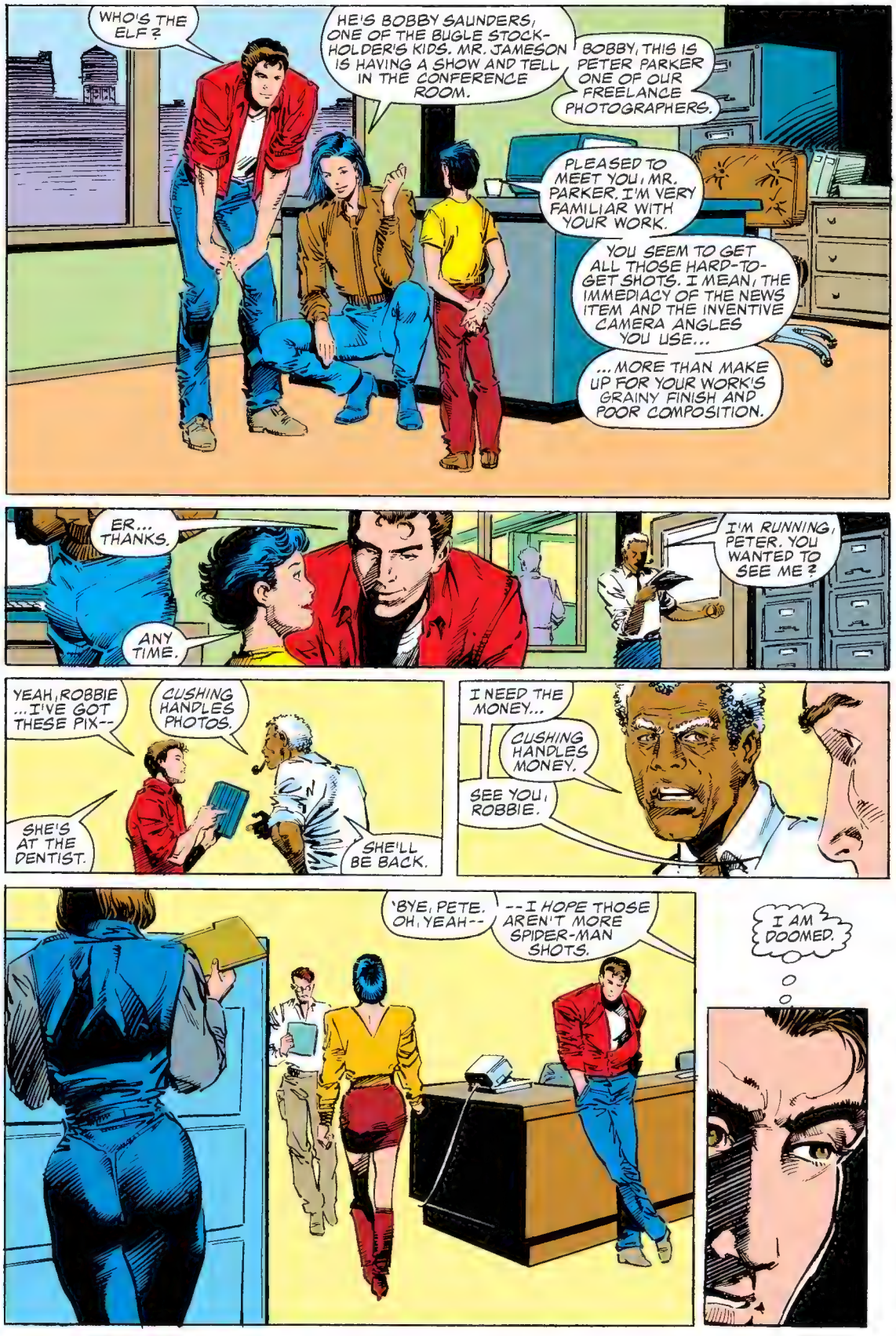

Security clearance one verified.
Welcome to your office headquarters, Mr. Stark.
Would you like a nice cup of tea?
SHUT UP, SX-9.
I'M SICK, HAWK. SCREWED UP REAL BAD.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR RECRIMINATIONS, ARNO.
LATER, WHEN CYNTHIA AND THE BOY ARE SAFE...
...I'LL REMIND YOU I TOLD YOU SO.
WHAT HAVE WE GOT...?
FIFTY MINUTES. MAYBE.
IT'S FULLY ARMED, ARNO. THE GOVERNOR'S ORDERED AN EVACUATION.
WELL, DISARM THE THING.
IMPOSSIBLE. I HAVE OUR TOP MEN WORKING ON IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SAUNDERS HAS COVERED ALL HIS BASES.
ANY WAY WE TRY TO GET INTO THE SYSTEM WILL DETONATE THE BOMB.
THERE MUST BE A WAY.
OF COURSE.
SAUNDERS' RETINA PATTERNS. THEY'RE THE KEY TO THE DISARM CODE.
SAUNDERS IS DEAD.
ALWAYS A HITCH, EH?
HERE'S THE FBI FILE ON SAUNDERS.
A VERITABLE RECLUSE. RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN THE PAST TEN YEARS AS LEADER OF THAT RADICAL ANTI-WAR GROUP. ABSURDLY REDUNDANT, NO?
IN FACT, THE MAN'S LAST MAJOR PUBLIC RECORD...
THE SPIDER-MAN MENACE
12 YEAR-OLD HONOR STUDENT INJURED IN SUPER-HERO SLUG-FEST
...IS FROM 35 YEARS AGO.
A LONG TIME AGO. FAR, FAR AWAY.
AND I'VE GOT A TIME MACHINE.
START IT UP.


NEW YORK CITY.
TODAY.
SPIDER-MAN!!!
KILL HIM!!!
YEAH, YEAH...
...MAKE ME SCARED.
YOU'LL LAUGH OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR HEAD, CLOWN-- WHEN YOU TANGLE WITH...
...THE BLIZZARD!!!
NO, NO, NO!!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, BUNKIE!
YOU SUPER BADDIES HAVE TO SHOUT YOUR NAME WITH MORE RESONANCE! YOUR DELIVERY LACKS CONVICTION!
HERE, WATCH...
YOU'LL LAUGH OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR HEAD, CLOWN, WHEN YOU DARE EMBRACE AND/OR CHALLENGE THE POWER OF...
...SNOW CONE MAN!!!
SEE HOW IMPRESSED HE IS?
WORKS EVERY TIME!

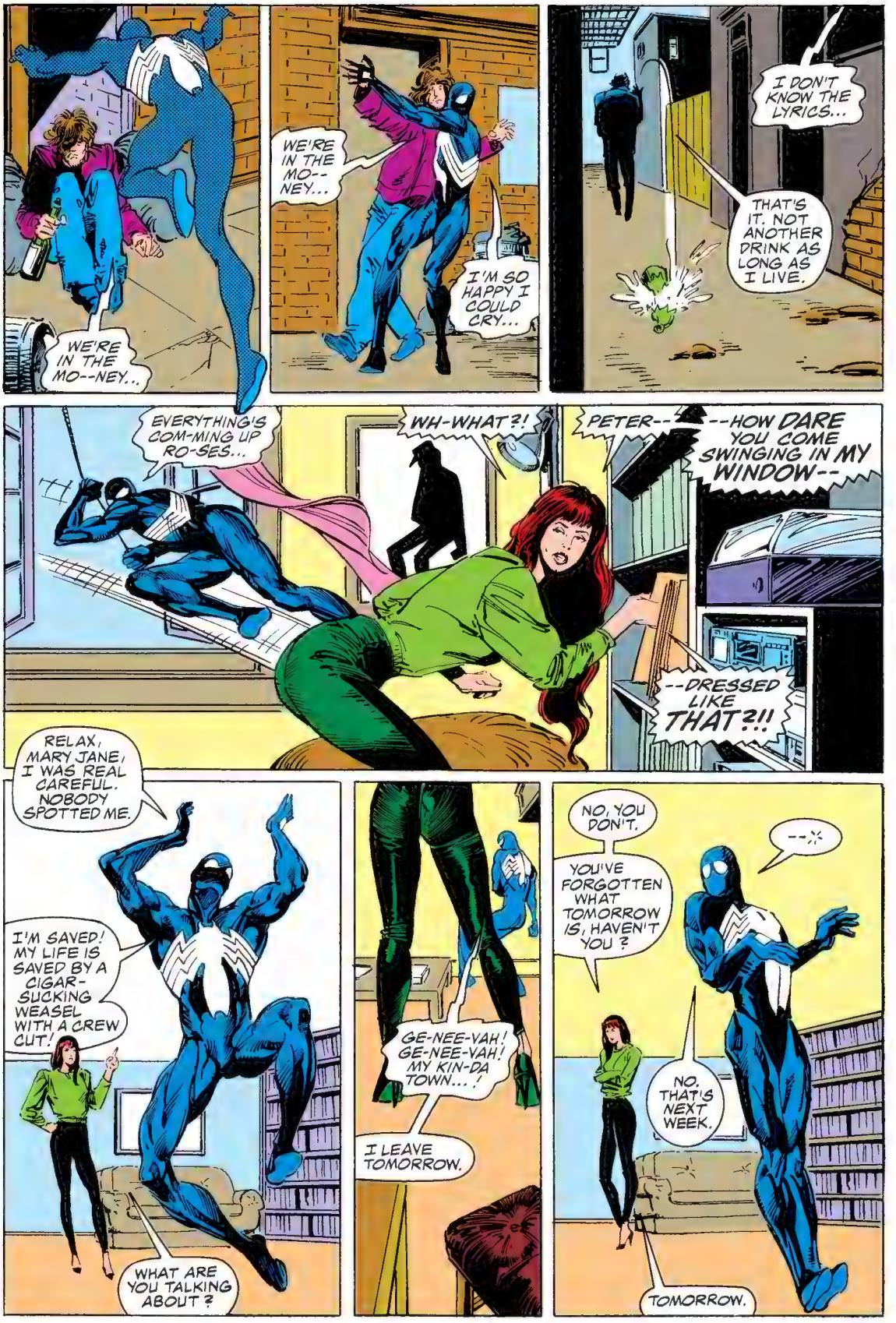
I HOPE MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA'S GETTING ALL THIS. I'D HATE TO THINK MY SONG AND DANCE BIT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.
AFTER ALL, SOMEONE WITH THE PROPORTIONAL STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER COULD MOP UP THESE CLOWNS IN HIS SLEEP!
HECK, MY AUNT MAY COULD MOP UP THESE CLOWNS IN HER SLEEP!
SINCE WHEN DOES THIS "BLIZZARD" GUY START ROBBING BANKS, ANYWAY? I THOUGHT HE WAS INTO HEAVIER STUFF.
OH WELL. BETTER WRAP THIS UP.
PARDON ME.
THWIP!!
DON'T GO AWAY.
IS HE... IS HE STILL BEHIND US...? MAN, WHAT A NUT...
GUY CRACKS JOKES WHILE HE BASHES OUR HEADS IN! DUDE AIN'T HUMAN!
SPLAT!
BETTER TELL YOUR GUYS TO WATCH WHERE THEY'RE RUNNING NEXT TIME, BLIZ!
YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE A WALL OF WEBBING'S GONNA POP UP.
YOU SMART-MOUTHED JERK!!

NOBODY MAKES FUN OF ME, PAL.
MY BATTLE SUIT GIVES ME THE POWER TO CONDENSE MOISTURE ALL AROUND ME AT WILL.
NOW THAT'S A HANDY ONE TO WHIP OUT AT PARTIES!
SZZAAP!
LOOK, PAL, CAN'T WE CUT A DEAL OR SOMETHING?
SAY, YOU DON'T ROB BANKS, I DON'T CALL YOU NAMES!
WELL, I TRIED.
THWIP!! THWIP!!
MISSED ME, DOPE!
YOU, FOR SURE!
BUT I DID MANAGE TO SNAG THAT HUNK OF ICE OVER YOUR HEAD!
SHEESH.
WHAT A WAY TO MAKE A LIVING!
CLICK!
THERE'S GOTTA BE AN EASIER GIG IN TOWN THAN GOING THREE OUT OF FIVE FALLS WITH MR. FROSTY BACK THERE.
THOUGH, HOPEFULLY MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA PICKED UP ENOUGH GOODS TO PAY MY RENT.
NOTE? WHAT NOTE?!
WHAT'S IT SAY?
SEZ: "COMPLIMENTS OF YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!"

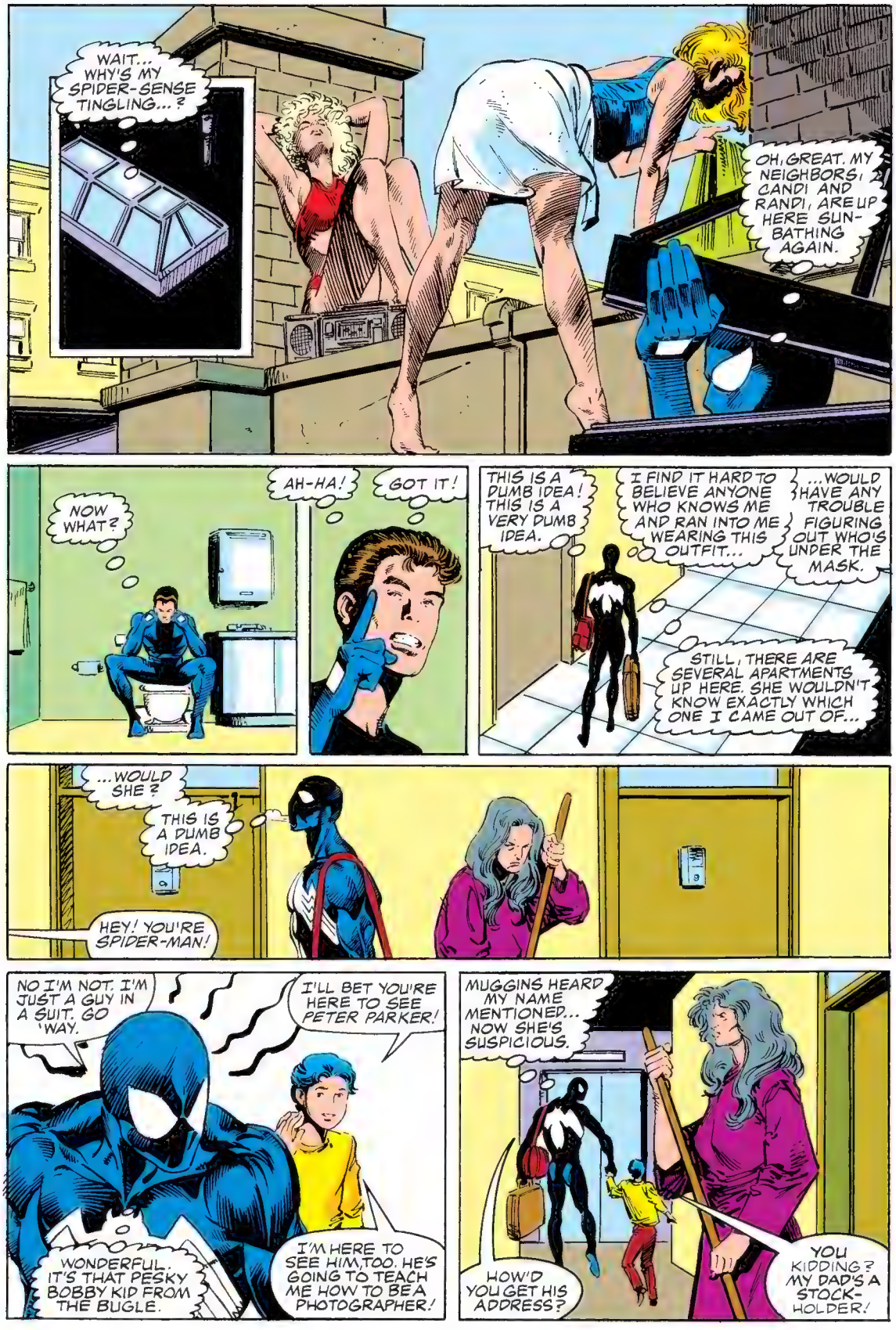

I'D SAY GOOD THING I HAPPENED BY THE BLIZZARD ROBBING THAT BANK--
-- BUT I HESITATE CALLING FROSTBITE IN AUGUST A "GOOD THING."
HOPE MY CITY EDITOR, MS. KATHRYN CUSHING, GOES FOR THESE PIX. SHE'S REALLY BEEN DOWN ON ME LATELY.
BUT EVEN SHE'S GOT TO ADMIT SPIDEY GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH ONE OF THE DEADLIEST... WELL...
...HMMM. MAKE THAT ONE OF THE MOST OBSCURE, LITTLE-KNOWN, TWO-BIT BADDIES.
I'M DOOMED.
WELL, NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED. MY LANDLADY, THE EVER-CHARMING MRS. MUGGINS, IS ON THE PROWL AGAIN.
THE RENT IS LATE AGAIN.
AND SO, I'M TRYING TO SELL SPIDEY ACTION PHOTOS AGAIN. EVEN THOUGH I KNOW NO ONE WANTS 'EM.
AIN'T IT GREAT HOW LIFE COMES FULL CIRCLE LIKE THIS?
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING. TIME TO STRIP OFF THE UNION SUIT AND LET PETER PARKER BREATHE AGAIN.
DAILY
HOPE CUSHING'S IN A GOOD MOOD...
KATE'S NOT IN, PETER. DENTIST APPOINTMENT.
GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ROBBIE
AND HE'S REAL BUSY.
AND THE BANKS CLOSE AT THREE...
I SHOULD'VE KEPT ONE OF THOSE MONEY BAGS I RECOVERED FROM THE HEIST.
HONESTY AND POVERTY MUST GO HAND IN HAND SOMEHOW...
HUH?
IS THAT KID... IMITATING ME...?

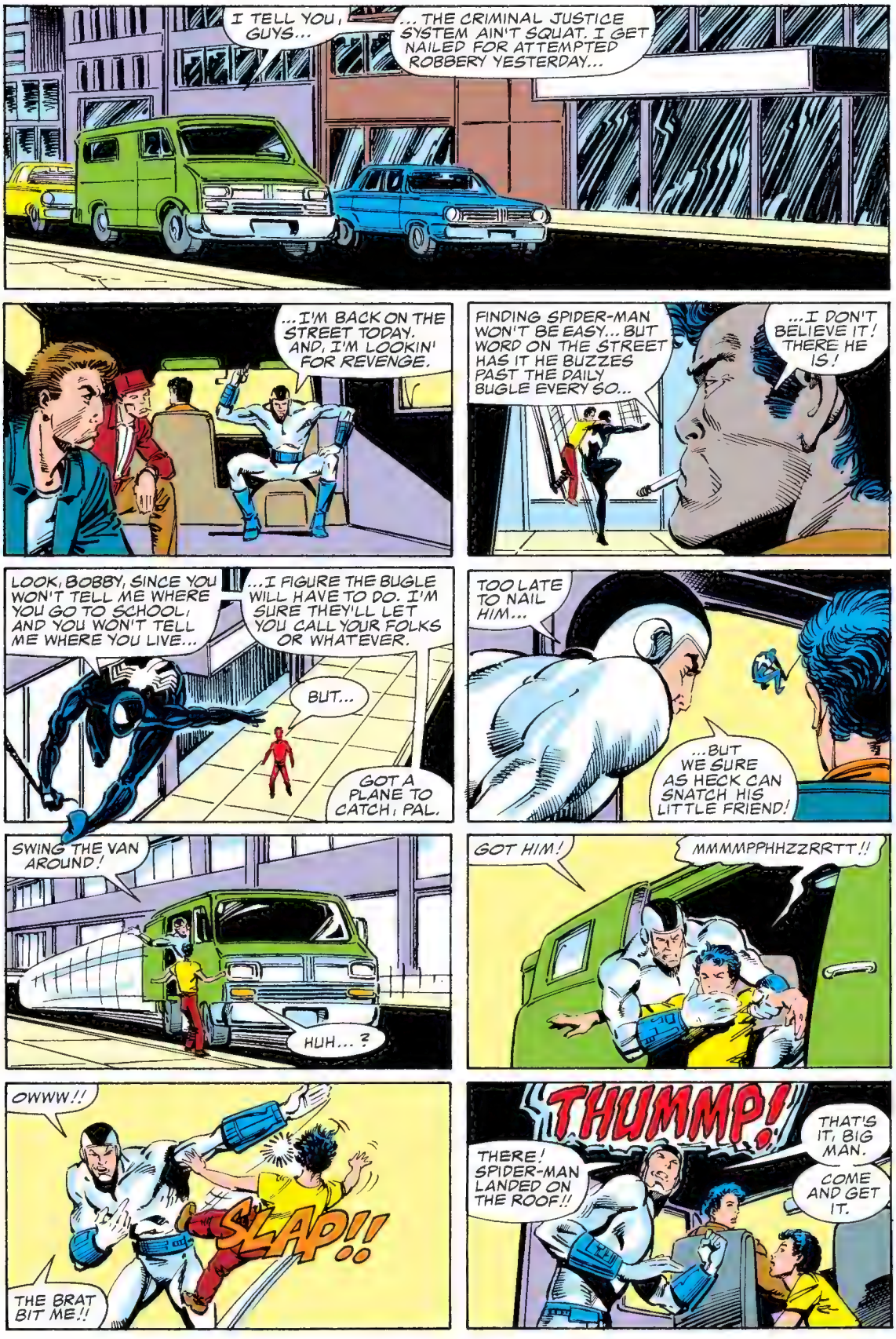

WHO'S THE ELF?
HE'S BOBBY SAUNDERS, ONE OF THE BUGLE STOCK-HOLDER'S KIDS. MR. JAMESON IS HAVING A SHOW AND TELL IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.
BOBBY, THIS IS PETER PARKER ONE OF OUR FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHERS.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MR. PARKER. I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH YOUR WORK.
YOU SEEM TO GET ALL THOSE HARD-TO-GET SHOTS. I MEAN, THE IMMEDIACY OF THE NEWS ITEM AND THE INVENTIVE CAMERA ANGLES YOU USE...
...MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR YOUR WORK'S GRAINY FINISH AND POOR COMPOSITION.
ER... THANKS.
ANY TIME.
I'M RUNNING, PETER. YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
YEAH, ROBBIE ...I'VE GOT THESE PIX--
CUSHING HANDLES PHOTOS.
SHE'S AT THE DENTIST.
SHE'LL BE BACK.
I NEED THE MONEY...
CUSHING HANDLES MONEY.
SEE YOU, ROBBIE.
'BYE, PETE. OH, YEAH--
--I HOPE THOSE AREN'T MORE SPIDER-MAN SHOTS.
I AM DOOMED.

AND, THIS KID'S MIMICKING ME AGAIN!!
PROBLEM, PETE?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'VE GOT TO RAISE $275.36 IN A REAL BIG HURRY.
YEP, WHAT I NEED NOW IS A MIRACLE FROM ABOVE...
PARKER!!!
RENT, HUH?
...BUT I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.
YES, MR. JAMESON, SIR?
LOOK HERE, PARKER, I NEED A MAN IN GENEVA TO COVER THE PEACE TALKS THERE FOR "NOW" MAGAZINE.
I'VE ALREADY GOT PEOPLE OVER THERE, BUT I DON'T TRUST THAT FOREIGN BUREAU CHIEF. HE'LL SNAG ALL THE GOOD PIX AND SEND ME THE REFUSE.
DON'T GIVE ME ANY OF YOUR "I'M TIRED OF BEING SHOT AT" GUFF, PARKER. I REALIZE THE ASSIGNMENTS I USUALLY GIVE YOU FOR "NOW" TEND TO PLACE YOU IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS.
BUT THIS ONE IS A CAKEWALK. THE MOST THAT CAN HAPPEN IS A TERRORIST ATTACK OR TWO.
I NEED A TOPFLIGHT WORLD CLASS PHOTOG ON THE SCENE RIGHT AWAY. AND SINCE I COULDN'T GRAB ANY OF THEM, I'M OFFERING THE JOB TO YOU.
AND DON'T HAGGLE ON RATE. YOU'LL GET TOP BUCKS. WELL, WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?!
I'LL TAKE IT.
AND MR. JAMESON, SIR...
...I LOVE YOU.
SOMETIMES THAT KID WORRIES ME.
PARKER, LOOKS LIKE YOUR WORLD FINALLY TURNED AROUND!
THESE OVERSEAS SHOOTS FOR "NOW" ARE USUALLY DANGEROUS, BUT THEY DO PAY WELL.
AND RIGHT NOW PAY SAVES SPIDEY'S DAY!

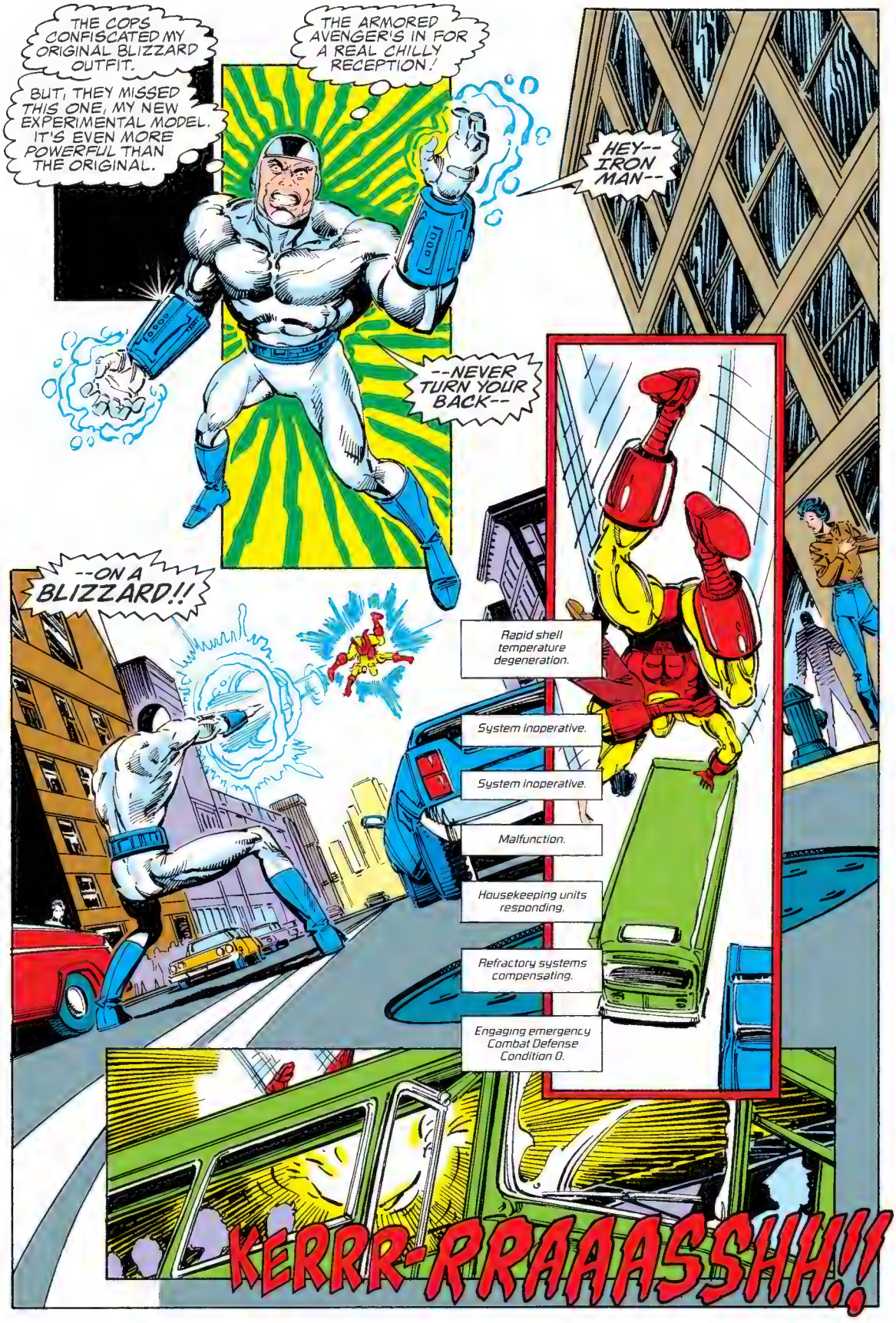

WE'RE IN THE MO--NEY...
WE'RE IN THE MO--NEY...
I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY...
I DON'T KNOW THE LYRICS...
THAT'S IT. NOT ANOTHER DRINK AS LONG AS I LIVE.
EVERYTHING'S COM-MING UP RO-SES...
WH-WHAT?!
PETER--
--HOW DARE YOU COME SWINGING IN MY WINDOW--
--DRESSED LIKE THAT?!!
RELAX, MARY JANE, I WAS REAL CAREFUL. NOBODY SPOTTED ME.
I'M SAVED! MY LIFE IS SAVED BY A CIGAR-SUCKING WEASEL WITH A CREW CUT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GE-NEE-VAH! GE-NEE-VAH! MY KIN-DA TOWN...!
I LEAVE TOMORROW.
NO, YOU DON'T.
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT TOMORROW IS, HAVEN'T YOU?
--?
NO. THAT'S NEXT WEEK.
TOMORROW.

TOMORROW.
MY AUNT MAY'S BIRTHDAY.
THE DAY I ALWAYS SPEND WITH HER.
THE WOMAN RAISED ME LIKE I WAS HER OWN SON. SHE'S SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR ME...
...NOW I'M RUNNING OUT ON HER. OH, SURE, ALL I HAVE TO SAY IS, "I HAD TO WORK..."
SHE'D UNDERSTAND.
IT STILL STINKS, THOUGH. BUT, IF I DON'T TAKE THIS JOB, I'LL GET EVICTED.
I'LL DO THE HONORABLE THING. CALL HER FROM THE AIRPORT.
WHOOPS! THERE'S MRS. MUGGINS... LOADED FOR BEAR.
IF SHE SEES ME, I'M DEAD. I'VE GOT TO DUCK HER 'TILL I GET PAID FOR THIS JOB.
SHORTLY...
IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE WHEN HAVING A DUAL IDENTITY COMES IN HANDY!
ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS CLIMB UP OUT OF MY SKY-LIGHT AND...


WAIT... WHY'S MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING...?
OH, GREAT. MY NEIGHBORS, CANDI AND RANDI, ARE UP HERE SUN-BATHING AGAIN.
NOW WHAT?
AH-HA!
GOT IT!
THIS IS A DUMB IDEA! THIS IS A VERY DUMB IDEA.
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME AND RAN INTO ME WEARING THIS OUTFIT...
...WOULD HAVE ANY TROUBLE FIGURING OUT WHO'S UNDER THE MASK.
STILL, THERE ARE SEVERAL APARTMENTS UP HERE. SHE WOULDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHICH ONE I CAME OUT OF...
...WOULD SHE?
THIS IS A DUMB IDEA.
HEY! YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN!
NO I'M NOT. I'M JUST A GUY IN A SUIT. GO 'WAY.
I'LL BET YOU'RE HERE TO SEE PETER PARKER!
WONDERFUL. IT'S THAT PESKY BOBBY KID FROM THE BUGLE.
I'M HERE TO SEE HIM, TOO. HE'S GOING TO TEACH ME HOW TO BE A PHOTOGRAPHER!
MUGGINS HEARD MY NAME MENTIONED... NOW SHE'S SUSPICIOUS.
HOW'D YOU GET HIS ADDRESS?
YOU KIDDING? MY DAD'S A STOCK-HOLDER!


I TELL YOU, GUYS...
...THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AIN'T SQUAT. I GET NAILED FOR ATTEMPTED ROBBERY YESTERDAY...
...I'M BACK ON THE STREET TODAY. AND, I'M LOOKIN' FOR REVENGE.
FINDING SPIDER-MAN WON'T BE EASY... BUT WORD ON THE STREET HAS IT HE BUZZES PAST THE DAILY BUGLE EVERY SO...
...I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THERE HE IS!
LOOK, BOBBY, SINCE YOU WON'T TELL ME WHERE YOU GO TO SCHOOL, AND YOU WON'T TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE...
...I FIGURE THE BUGLE WILL HAVE TO DO. I'M SURE THEY'LL LET YOU CALL YOUR FOLKS OR WHATEVER.
BUT...
GOT A PLANE TO CATCH, PAL.
TOO LATE TO NAIL HIM...
...BUT WE SURE AS HECK CAN SNATCH HIS LITTLE FRIEND!
SWING THE VAN AROUND!
HUH...?
GOT HIM!
MMMMPPHHZZRRTT!!
OWWW!!
SLAP!!
THE BRAT BIT ME!!
THUMMP!
THERE! SPIDER-MAN LANDED ON THE ROOF!!
THAT'S IT, BIG MAN.
COME AND GET IT.

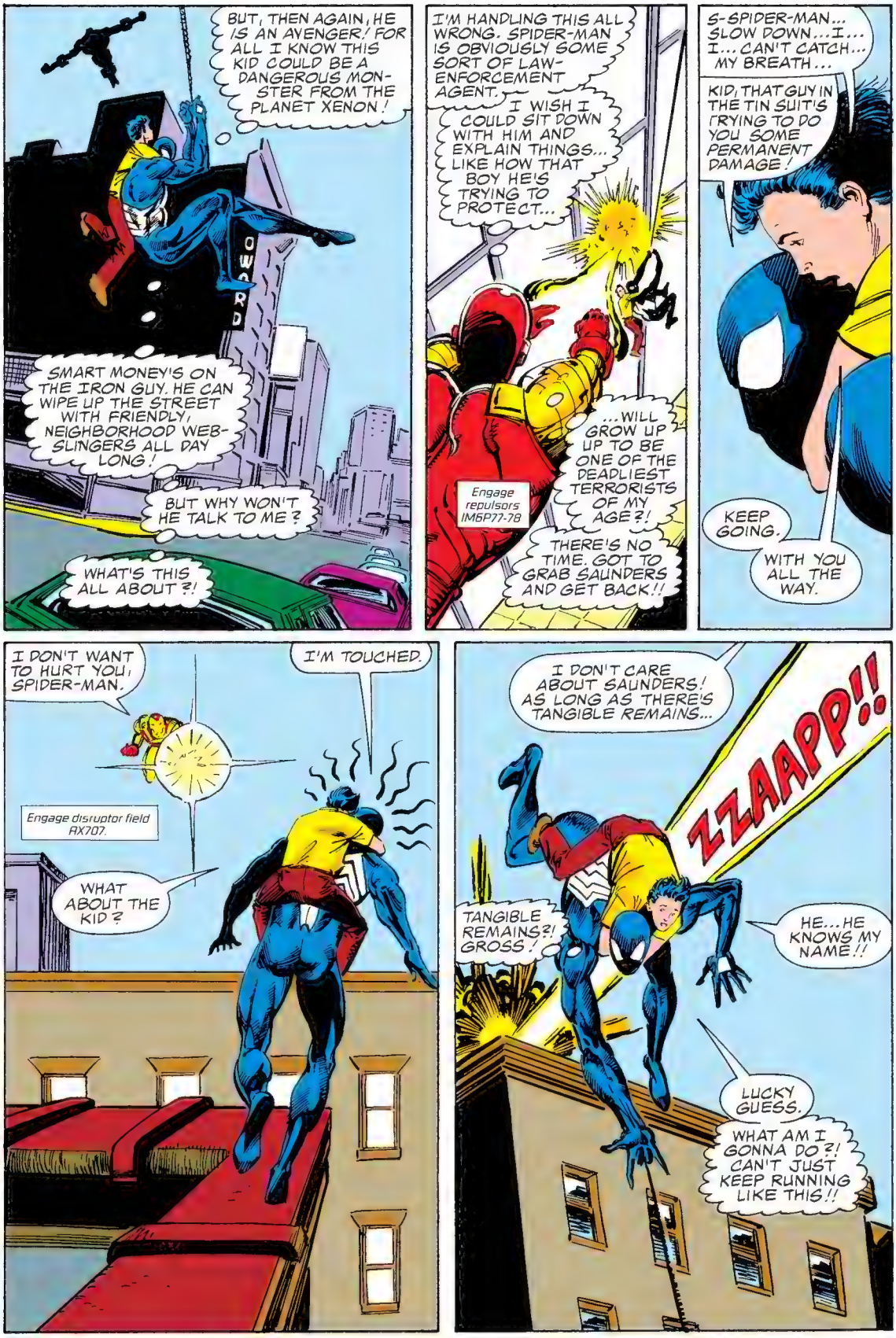
TimePhase transfer engage plus 10.726 minutes.
All systems normal
Engaging combat-ready Defense Condition Four.
Repulsor energy cannons cycling up.
10.326 seconds to DefCon Four engagement.
RRIIIPP!!!
IRON MAN?!?
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE... ?!
HEY! COME BACK WITH THAT KID!!
6.725 seconds to DefCon Four engagement.
HE'S IGNORING ME... JUST FLYING OFF!
TREATING ME LIKE I DIDN'T EVEN EXIST!!
JUST LIKE ALWAYS.
I'VE CLASHED WITH THAT ARMORED IDIOT MORE TIMES THAN I'D LIKE TO REMEMBER. HE'S ALWAYS TRASHED ME AND FLOWN OFF...
JUST LIKE HE'S DOING NOW.
WELL, I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR HIM.


THE COPS CONFISCATED MY ORIGINAL BLIZZARD OUTFIT.
BUT, THEY MISSED THIS ONE, MY NEW EXPERIMENTAL MODEL. IT'S EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN THE ORIGINAL.
THE ARMORED AVENGER'S IN FOR A REAL CHILLY RECEPTION!
HEY-- IRON MAN--
--NEVER TURN YOUR BACK--
--ON A BLIZZARD!!
Rapid shell temperature degeneration.
System inoperative.
System inoperative.
Malfunction.
Housekeeping units responding.
Refractory systems compensating.
Engaging emergency Combat Defense Condition O.
KERRR-RRAAASSHH!!

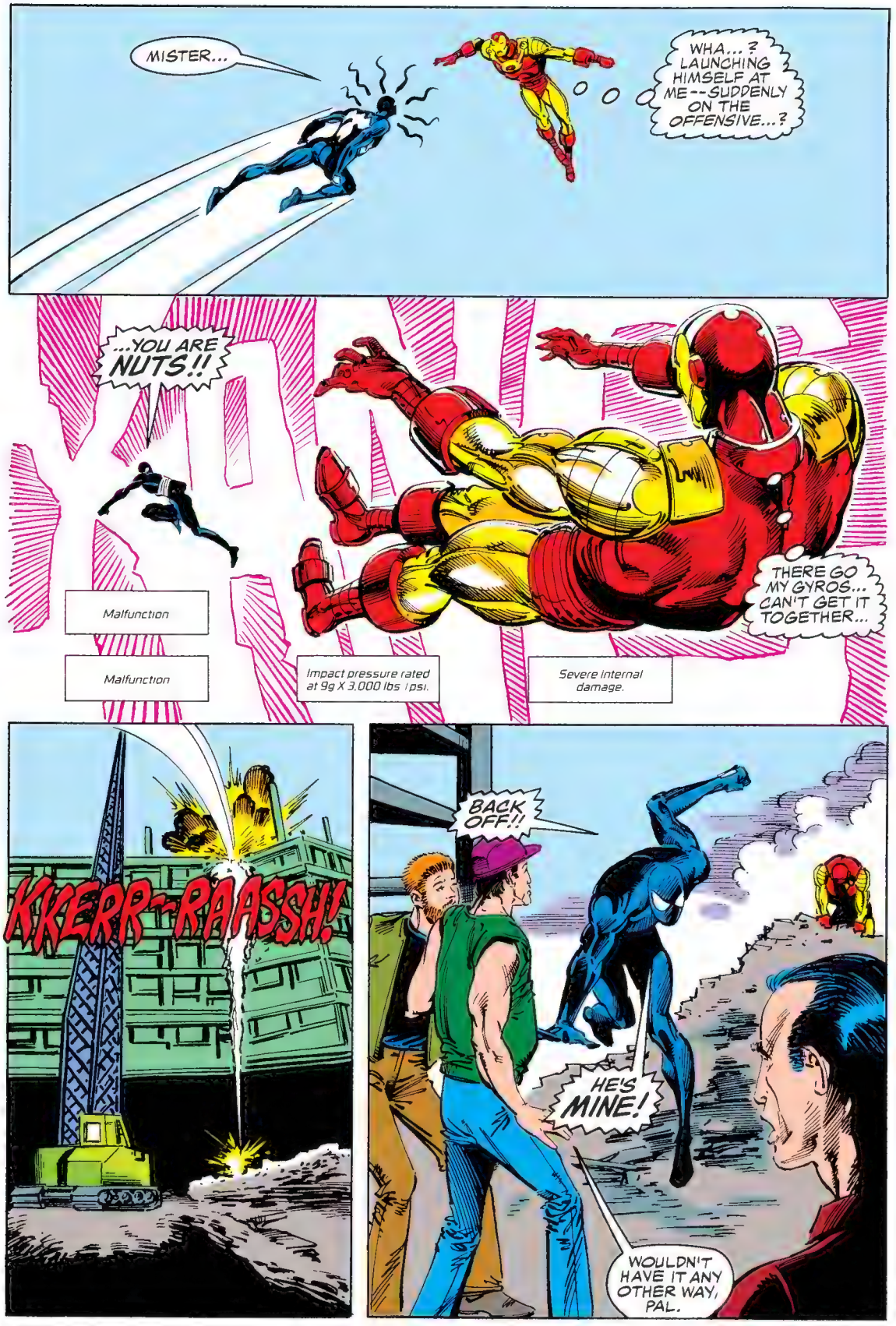
CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.
TIME DISPLACEMENT EFFECT... REALLY TAKES THE WIND OUT OF YOU...
SYSTEMS GARBLED... SLUGGISH...
...BUT THEY'LL WORK WELL ENOUGH.
ALL RIGHT, AVENGER--
...THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE!!
I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR THIS... CLOWN!
SSSZZZZ
AAAHH!
SORRY THAT HAD TO HAPPEN, BUT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.
HE JUST GOT IN THE WAY.

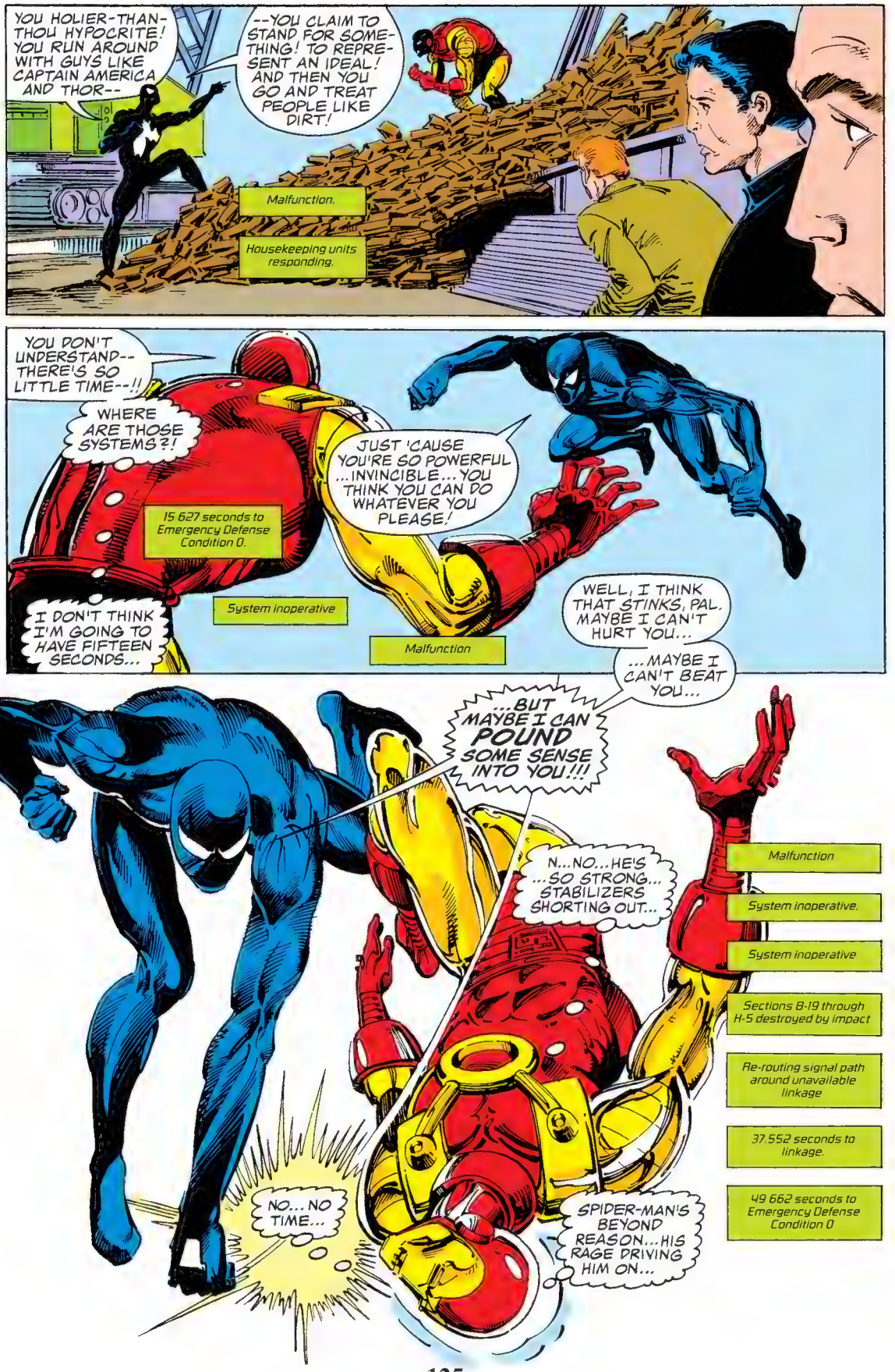
THWIPP!
NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.
WHAT--?!
HIYA, SHELL-HEAD.
HOW'S TRICKS?
STAY OUT OF THIS, SPIDER-MAN.
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.
Engage repulsor IM6P77.
KRAAKK!!
INTERFERE, AND BE DESTROYED!
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
GOOD THING I DECIDED TO DOUBLE BACK AND MAKE SURE BOBBY GOT UPSTAIRS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT IRON MAN'S SURE ACTING WEIRD!
GOTTA SNAG THAT CHUNK OF BUILDING BEFORE IT HITS THE KID!!
THEN I'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT IRON MAN'S PROBLEM IS.
THEN I'LL GET BOBBY UPSTAIRS!
THEN, JUST MAYBE, I'LL CATCH MY PLANE!
CRUNNCH!

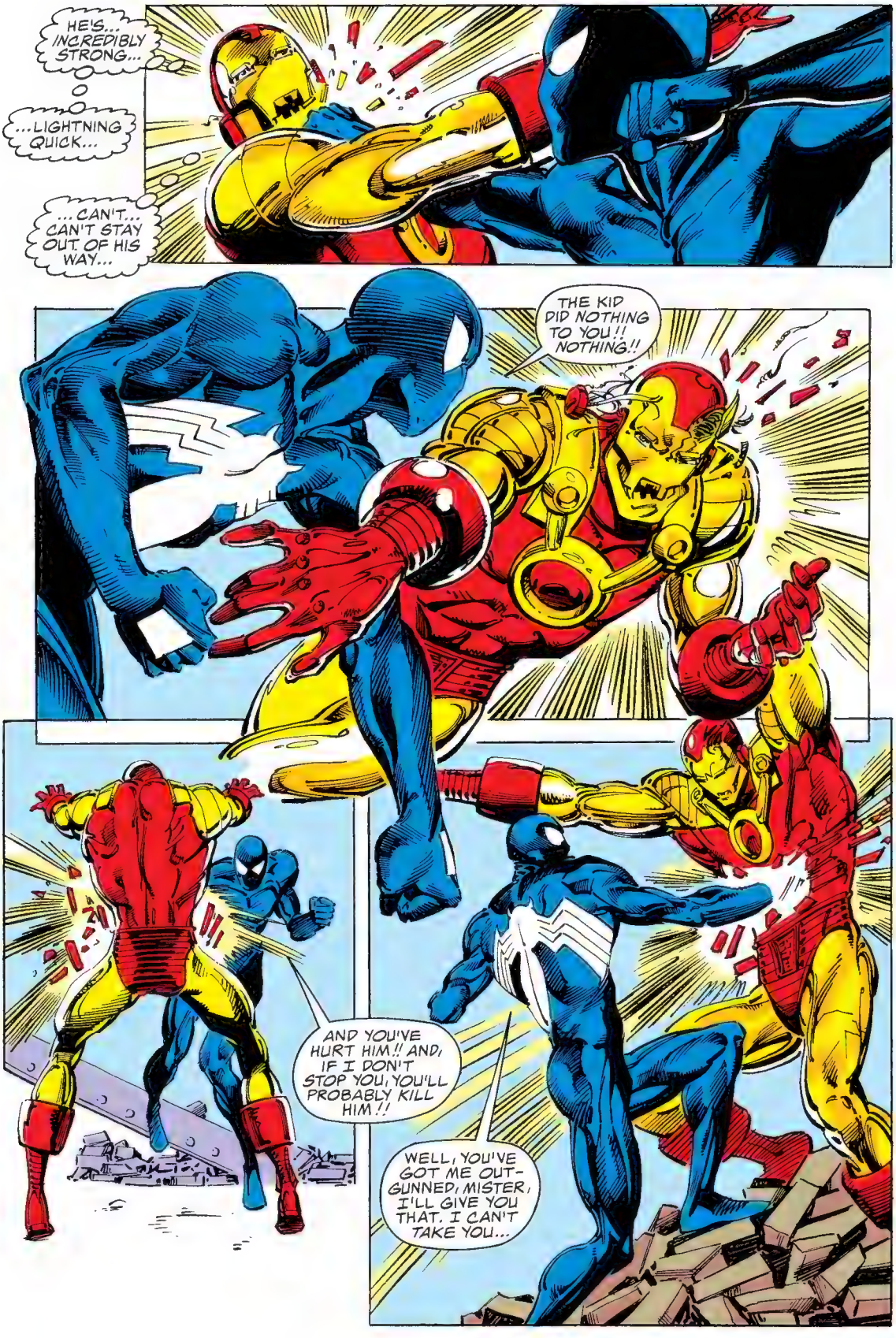
THE... RETINA SCANNER...
...YOU'VE DESTROYED IT!!
DIDN'T COUNT ON THIS. GETTING SAUNDERS' RETINA PATTERNS IS SUCH A SIMPLE TASK!
I ONLY BROUGHT ONE INSTRUMENT WITH ME. I COULD JERRY-RIG ANOTHER, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.
EVEN THOUGH I'M TRAVELING THROUGH TIME, REAL TIME CONTINUES BACK HOME. I CAN'T CHEAT THE CLOCK!
I'VE GOT ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES BEFORE THE PLANET BUSTER BOMB EXPLODES. I'VE NO CHOICE--
SOUNDS LIKE OUR EXIT CUE, BOBBY.
--I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE BOY WITH ME!!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I REALLY TICKED GOLDEN BOY OFF WHEN I DROPPED HIS THINGAMAWOOGIT.
SPIDER-MAN!!
FERRAAZZT!!
HAND OVER THE BOY IMMEDIATELY!
Engage repulsors IM6P77-78
KAA-BLOOM
SOMETHING'S SERIOUSLY WRONG, HERE.
HEY BOBBY-- YOU ROB A BANK OR SOMETHING?
N...NOT LATELY...
Engage repulsor IM6P78.
IRON MAN'S LOSING IT. THIS MAKES NO SENSE.

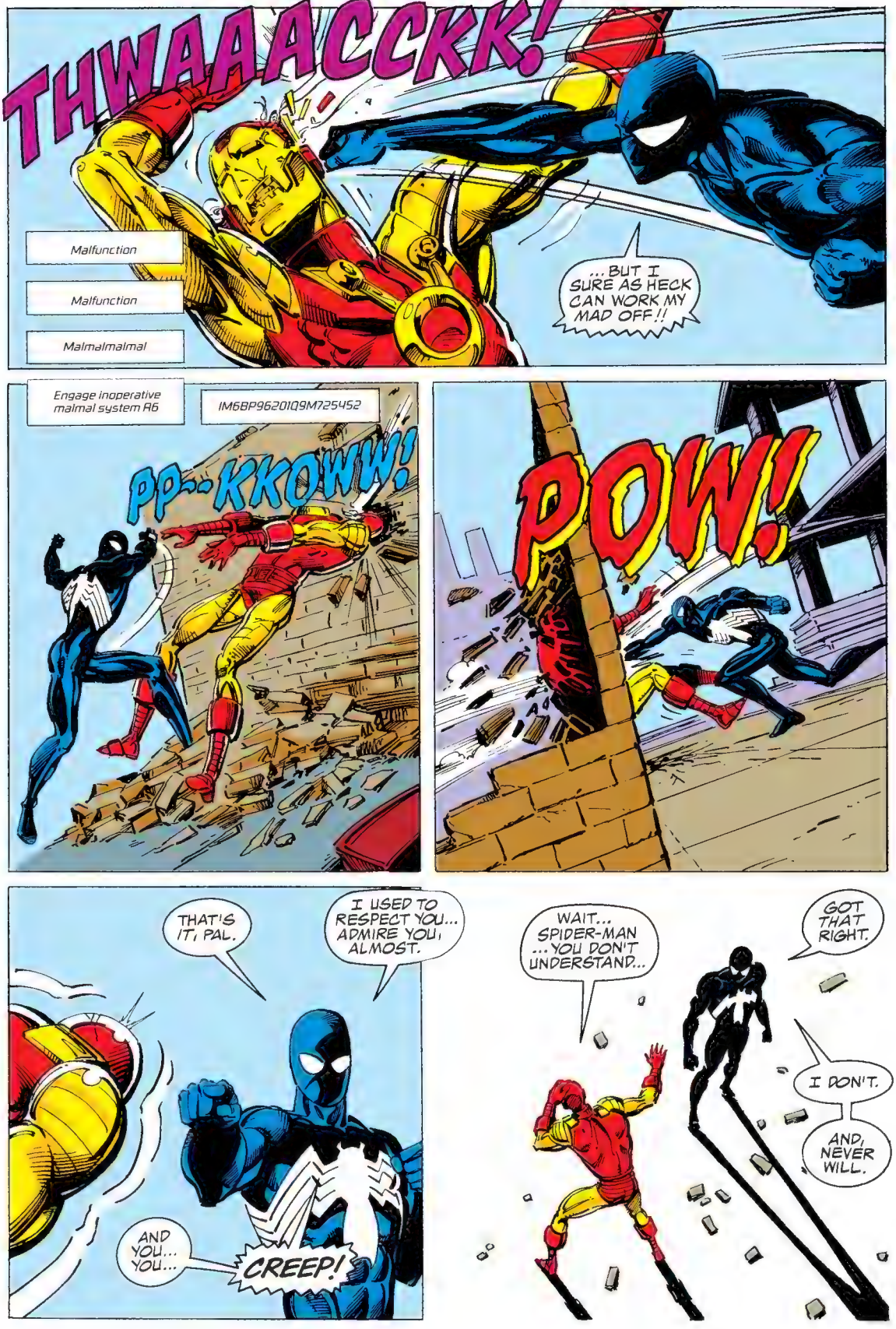

BUT, THEN AGAIN, HE IS AN AVENGER! FOR ALL I KNOW THIS KID COULD BE A DANGEROUS MONSTER FROM THE PLANET XENON!
SMART MONEY'S ON THE IRON GUY. HE CAN WIPE UP THE STREET WITH FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SLINGERS ALL DAY LONG!
BUT WHY WON'T HE TALK TO ME?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?!
I'M HANDLING THIS ALL WRONG. SPIDER-MAN IS OBVIOUSLY SOME SORT OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENT.
I WISH I COULD SIT DOWN WITH HIM AND EXPLAIN THINGS... LIKE HOW THAT BOY HE'S TRYING TO PROTECT...
Engage repulsors IM5P77-78
...WILL GROW UP UP TO BE ONE OF THE DEADLIEST TERRORISTS OF MY AGE?!
THERE'S NO TIME. GOT TO GRAB SAUNDERS AND GET BACK!!
S-SPIDER-MAN... SLOW DOWN...I... I... CAN'T CATCH... MY BREATH...
KID, THAT GUY IN THE TIN SUIT'S TRYING TO DO YOU SOME PERMANENT DAMAGE!
KEEP GOING.
WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, SPIDER-MAN.
I'M TOUCHED.
Engage disruptor field AX707.
WHAT ABOUT THE KID?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT SAUNDERS! AS LONG AS THERE'S TANGIBLE REMAINS...
ZZAAPP!!
TANGIBLE REMAINS?! GROSS!
HE... HE KNOWS MY NAME!!
LUCKY GUESS.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?! CAN'T JUST KEEP RUNNING LIKE THIS!!

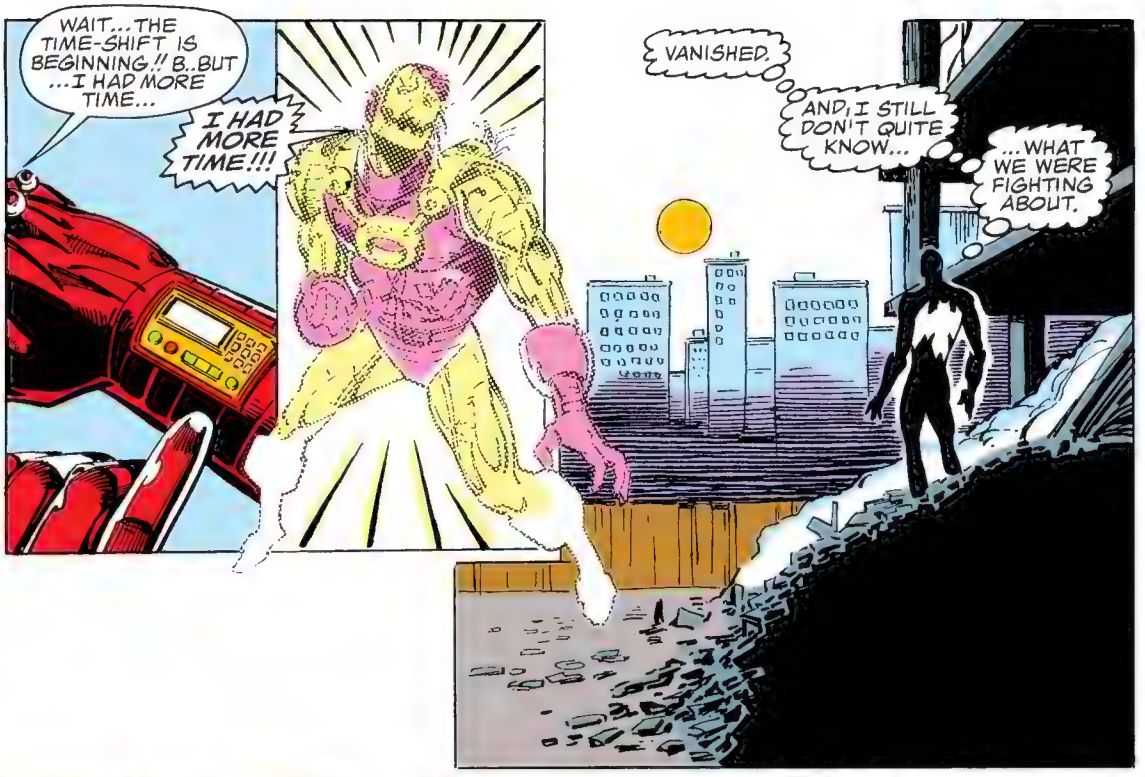
I'M REALLY BLOWING THIS.
Engage disruptor beam AX706.
I'M HAMSTRUNG BY MY OWN TECHNOLOGY! ALL OF THE ARMOR'S OFFENSIVE WEAPONRY IS DESIGNED FOR TOTAL DESTRUCTION!
CAN'T CONFRONT SPIDER-MAN DIRECTLY WITHOUT RISKING INCINERATING BOTH HIM AND SAUNDERS!
I CAN'T RISK LOSING SAUNDERS AGAIN.
YEOW!!
SPIDER SENSE BARELY WARNED ME IN TIME!
IRON MAN'S BEEN TOYING WITH ME... ANTICIPATING MY EVERY MOVE!
FACE IT, WEBHEAD...
...YOU'RE WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE. WAIT-- BOBBY... HE'S...
...TAKEN A LOT OF FLYING GLASS...
...HURT BAD...
THAT SINKS IT.
ABSOLUTELY.

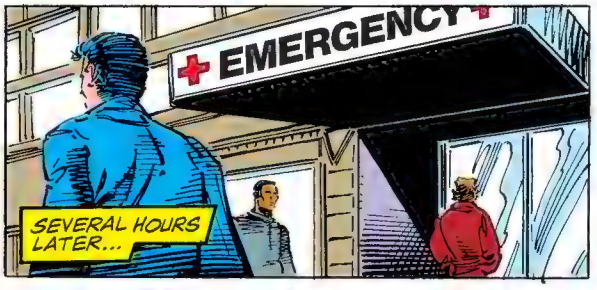

MISTER...
WHA...? LAUNCHING HIMSELF AT ME--SUDDENLY ON THE OFFENSIVE...?
...YOU ARE NUTS!!
THERE GO MY GYROS... CAN'T GET IT TOGETHER...
Malfunction
Malfunction
Impact pressure rated at 9g X 3,000 lbs / psi.
Severe internal damage.
KKERR-RAASSH!
BACK OFF!!
HE'S MINE!
WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY, PAL.

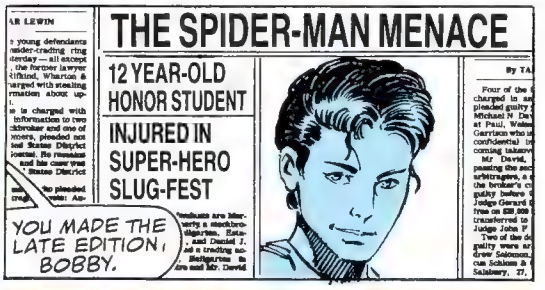

YOU HOLIER-THAN-THOU HYPOCRITE! YOU RUN AROUND WITH GUYS LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THOR--
--YOU CLAIM TO STAND FOR SOMETHING! TO REPRESENT AN IDEAL! AND THEN YOU GO AND TREAT PEOPLE LIKE DIRT!
Malfunction.
Housekeeping units responding.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- THERE'S SO LITTLE TIME--!!
WHERE ARE THOSE SYSTEMS?!
15 627 seconds to Emergency Defense Condition 0.
JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE SO POWERFUL ...INVINCIBLE... YOU THINK YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU PLEASE!
I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE FIFTEEN SECONDS...
System inoperative
Malfunction
WELL, I THINK THAT STINKS, PAL. MAYBE I CAN'T HURT YOU...
...MAYBE I CAN'T BEAT YOU...
...BUT MAYBE I CAN POUND SOME SENSE INTO YOU!!!
N...NO...HE'S ...SO STRONG... STABILIZERS SHORTING OUT...
NO... NO TIME...
SPIDER-MAN'S BEYOND REASON... HIS RAGE DRIVING HIM ON...
Malfunction
System inoperative.
System inoperative
Sections 8-19 through H-5 destroyed by impact
Re-routing signal path around unavailable linkage
37.552 seconds to linkage.
49 662 seconds to Emergency Defense Condition 0


HE'S... INCREDIBLY STRONG...
...LIGHTNING QUICK...
...CAN'T... CAN'T STAY OUT OF HIS WAY...
THE KID DID NOTHING TO YOU!! NOTHING!!
AND YOU'VE HURT HIM!! AND, IF I DON'T STOP YOU, YOU'LL PROBABLY KILL HIM!!
WELL, YOU'VE GOT ME OUT-GUNNED, MISTER, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT. I CAN'T TAKE YOU...


THWAAACCKK!
Malfunction
Malfunction
Malmalmalmal
...BUT I SURE AS HECK CAN WORK MY MAD OFF!!
Engage inoperative malmal system A6
IM6BP9620109M725452
PP--KKOWW!
POW!!
THAT'S IT, PAL.
I USED TO RESPECT YOU... ADMIRE YOU, ALMOST.
AND YOU... YOU...
CREEP!
WAIT... SPIDER-MAN ...YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
GOT THAT RIGHT.
I DON'T.
AND, NEVER WILL.

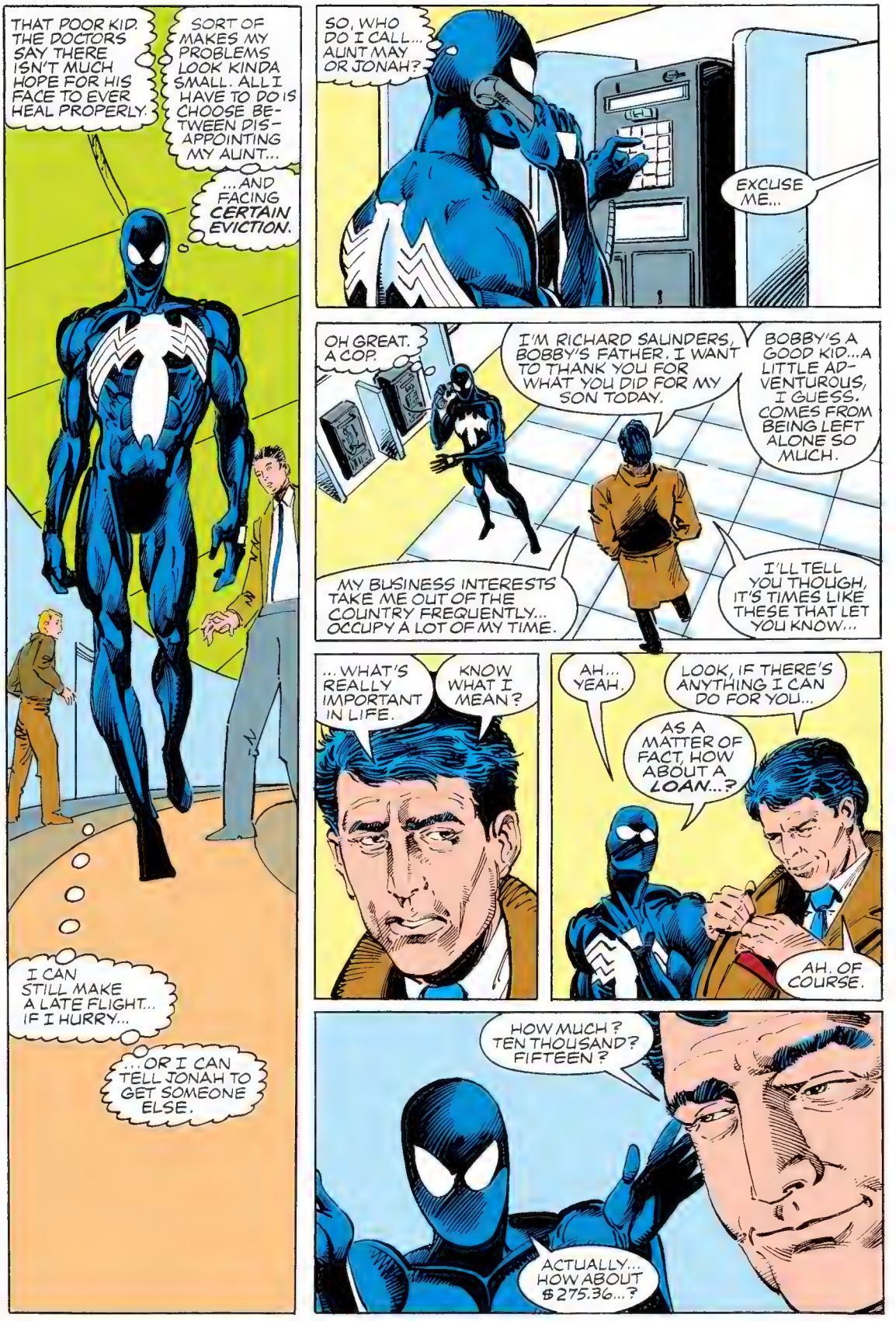

WAIT... THE TIME-SHIFT IS BEGINNING!! B..BUT ...I HAD MORE TIME...
I HAD MORE TIME!!!
VANISHED.
AND, I STILL DON'T QUITE KNOW...
...WHAT WE WERE FIGHTING ABOUT.

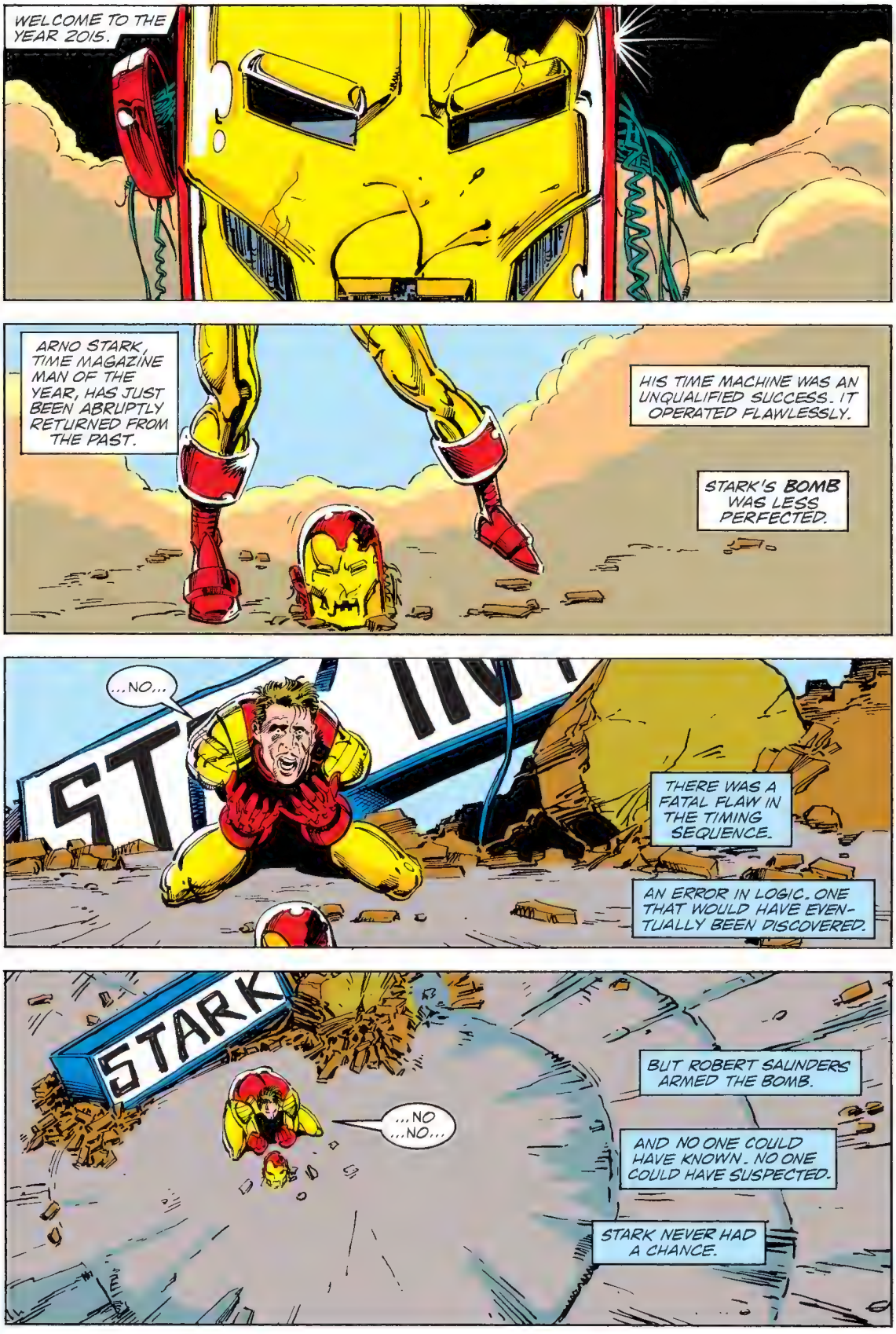

EMERGENCY
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

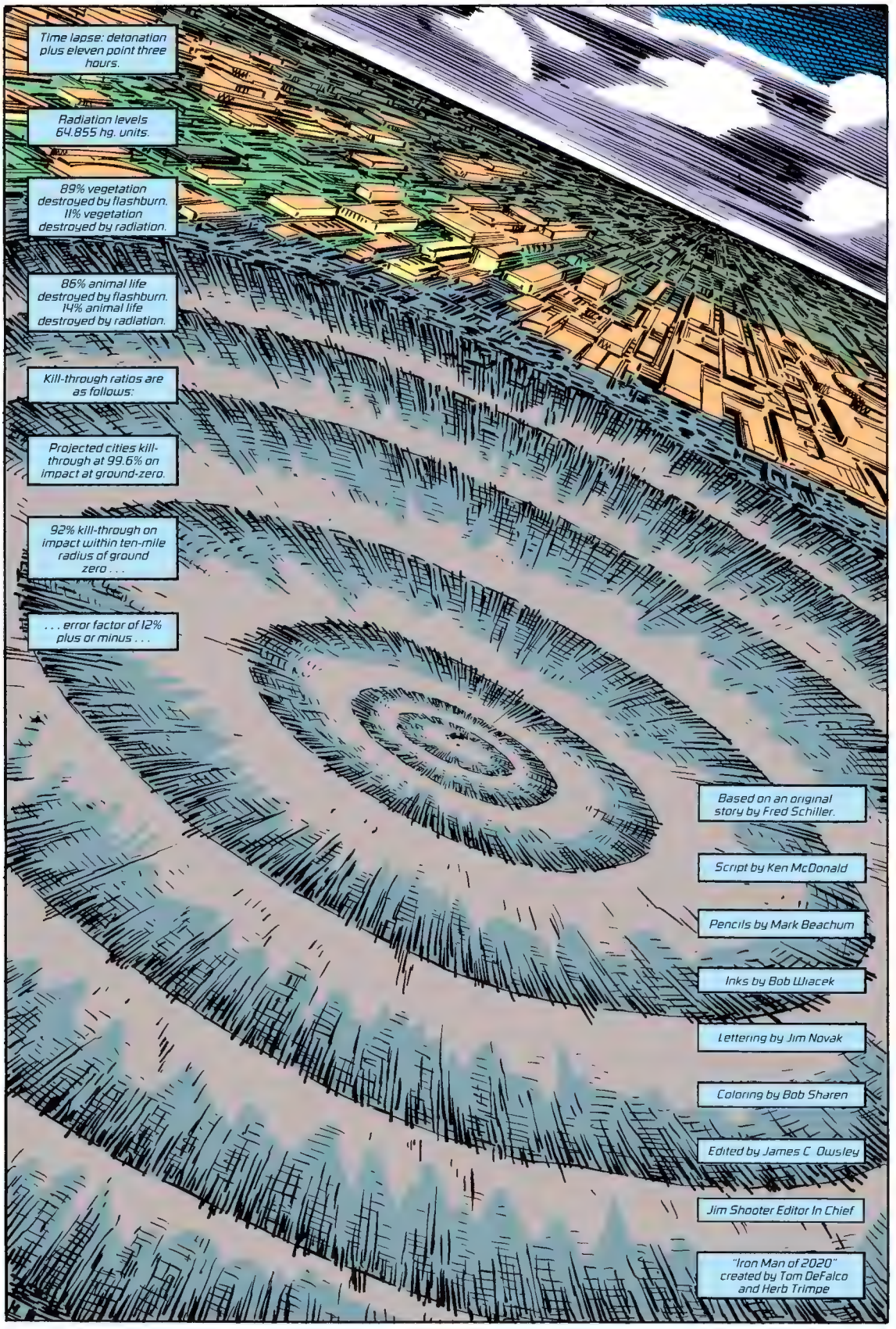

THE SPIDER-MAN MENACE
12 YEAR-OLD HONOR STUDENT
INJURED IN SUPER-HERO SLUG-FEST
YOU MADE THE LATE EDITION, BOBBY.

HAPPY?
YEAH, DAD.
THRILLED.
COME ON, BOBBY. SMILE A LITTLE, OKAY?
WHY BOTHER? YOU COULDN'T SEE IT.
RAP! RAP!

SPIDER-MAN!!
THAT POOR KID... DISFIGURED BY ALL THAT GLASS!


THAT POOR KID. THE DOCTORS SAY THERE ISN'T MUCH HOPE FOR HIS FACE TO EVER HEAL PROPERLY.
SORT OF MAKES MY PROBLEMS LOOK KINDA SMALL. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CHOOSE BETWEEN DISAPPOINTING MY AUNT...
...AND FACING CERTAIN EVICTION.
I CAN STILL MAKE A LATE FLIGHT... IF I HURRY...
...OR I CAN TELL JONAH TO GET SOMEONE ELSE.
SO, WHO DO I CALL... AUNT MAY OR JONAH?
EXCUSE ME...
OH GREAT. A COP.
I'M RICHARD SAUNDERS, BOBBY'S FATHER. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR MY SON TODAY.
BOBBY'S A GOOD KID...A LITTLE ADVENTUROUS, I GUESS. COMES FROM BEING LEFT ALONE SO MUCH.
MY BUSINESS INTERESTS TAKE ME OUT OF THE COUNTRY FREQUENTLY... OCCUPY A LOT OF MY TIME.
I'LL TELL YOU THOUGH, IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT LET YOU KNOW...
...WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IN LIFE.
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
AH... YEAH.
LOOK, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, HOW ABOUT A LOAN...?
AH. OF COURSE.
HOW MUCH? TEN THOUSAND? FIFTEEN?
ACTUALLY... HOW ABOUT $275.36...?


WELCOME TO THE YEAR 2015.
ARNO STARK, TIME MAGAZINE MAN OF THE YEAR, HAS JUST BEEN ABRUPTLY RETURNED FROM THE PAST.
HIS TIME MACHINE WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. IT OPERATED FLAWLESSLY.
STARK'S BOMB WAS LESS PERFECTED.
...NO...
THERE WAS A FATAL FLAW IN THE TIMING SEQUENCE.
AN ERROR IN LOGIC. ONE THAT WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY BEEN DISCOVERED.
STARK
...NO ...NO...
BUT ROBERT SAUNDERS ARMED THE BOMB.
AND NO ONE COULD HAVE KNOWN. NO ONE COULD HAVE SUSPECTED.
STARK NEVER HAD A CHANCE.


Time lapse: detonation plus eleven point three hours.
Radiation levels 64.855 hg. units.
89% vegetation destroyed by flashburn. 11% vegetation destroyed by radiation.
86% animal life destroyed by flashburn. 14% animal life destroyed by radiation.
Kill-through ratios are as follows:
Projected cities kill-through at 99.6% on impact at ground-zero.
92% kill-through on impact within ten-mile radius of ground zero . . .
. . . error factor of 12% plus or minus . . .
Based on an original story by Fred Schiller.
Script by Ken McDonald
Pencils by Mark Beachum
Inks by Bob Wiacek
Lettering by Jim Novak
Coloring by Bob Sharen
Edited by James C. Owsley
Jim Shooter Editor In Chief
"Iron Man of 2020" created by Tom DeFalco and Herb Trimpe

MARVEL
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
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TM
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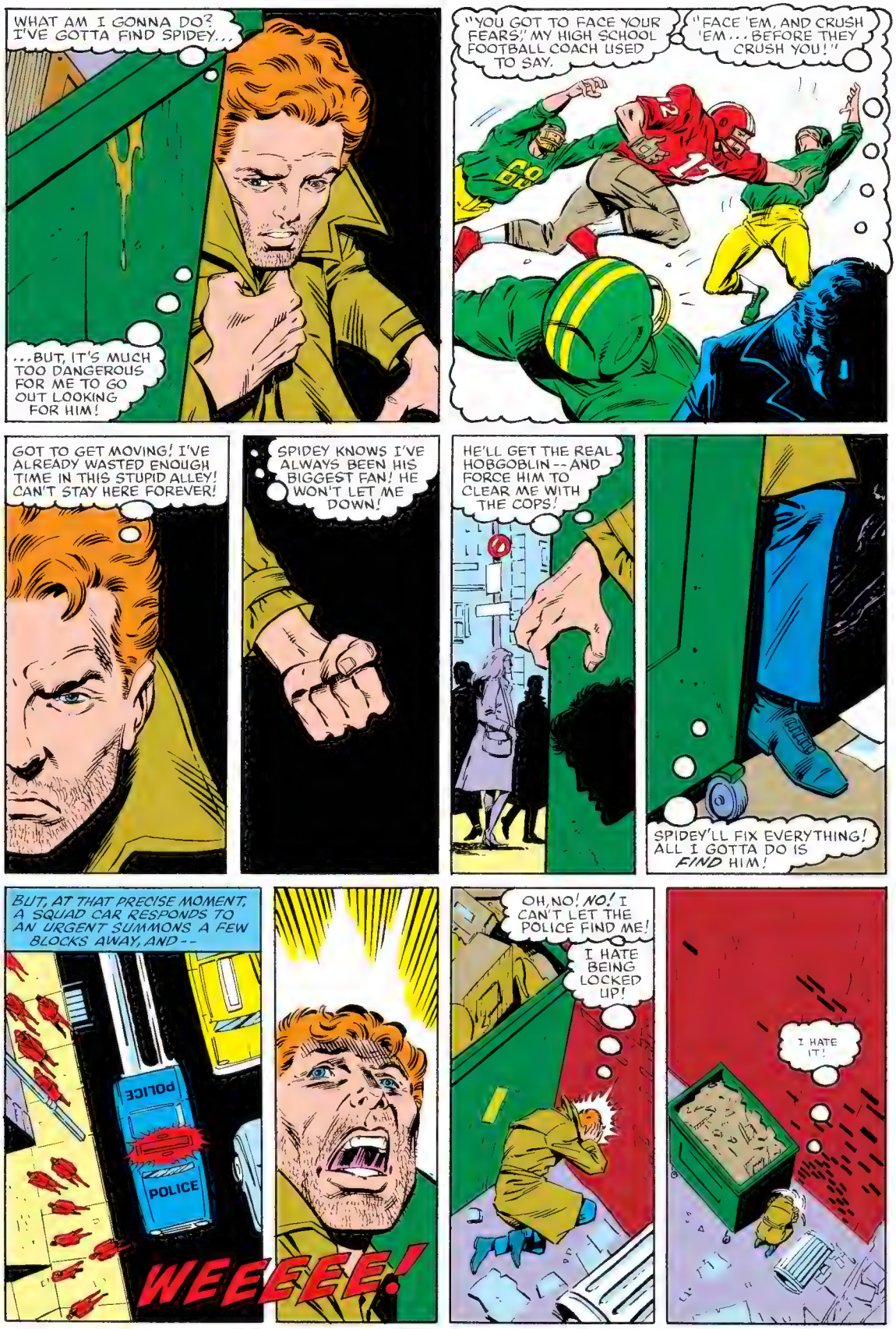
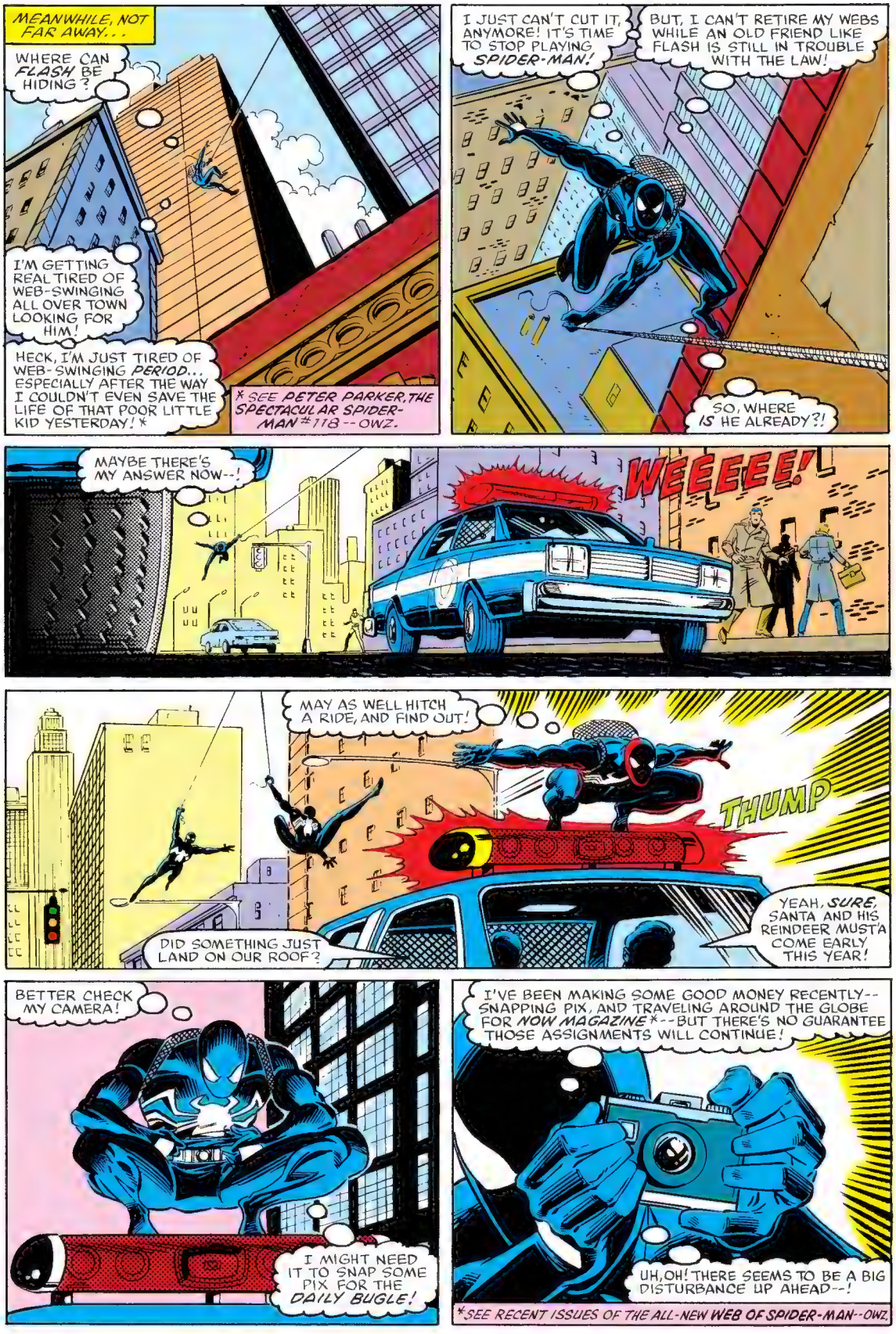
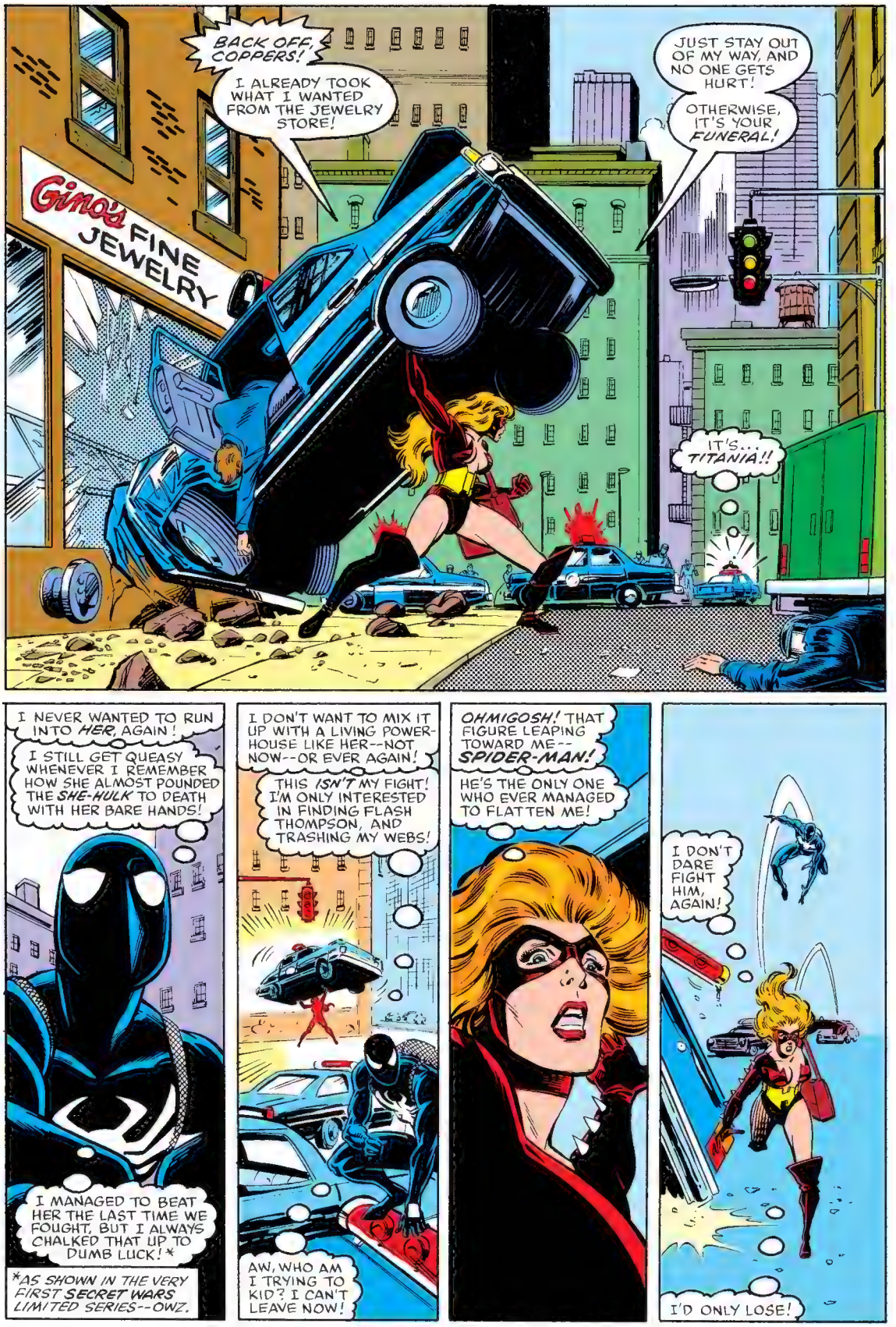
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE ABSORBING MAN™ AND TITANIA™ VS:
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
GAME OVER, WEBHEAD! I'VE ABSORBED THE PROPERTIES OF THIS CONCRETE...
...AND MY GAL TITANIA'S THE WORLD'S STRONGEST WOMAN!
SO, SAY YOUR PRAYERS, PAL... IT'S LIGHTS OUT TIME!!
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING DEPT.
IF WE TRIED TO SHOW YOU THE AWESOME SPECTACLE THAT COMES NEXT, THE COMICS CODE WOULDN'T APPROVE THIS MAG! BUT, TRUST US, SPIDEY'S GOT HIS HANDS FULL...
"...WITH FOES LIKE THESE...!"

SPIDER-MAN
"WITH FOES LIKE THESE..."
ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED FOR THE CRIMES OF THE HOBGOBLIN, FLASH THOMPSON RECENTLY BECAME AN UNWILLING PARTICIPANT IN A JAILBREAK!
NOW, HUNTED BY BOTH THE AUTHORITIES AND THE REAL HOBGOBLIN HIMSELF, FLASH DESPERATELY PONDERS HIS NEXT MOVE...
CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE ME! IF I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED--!
SPIDER-MAN'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME NOW!
HOW DO I REACH HIM?
WHAT IF HE BELIEVES THE STORIES ABOUT ME? WHAT IF HE ACTUALLY THINKS THAT I'M THE HOBGOBLIN?
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO-- WRITER
RON FRENZ-- PENCILER
BOB LAYTON-- FINISHER
JOE ROSEN & CO.-- LETTERERS
BOB SHAREN-- COLORIST
JIM OWSLEY-- EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER-- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

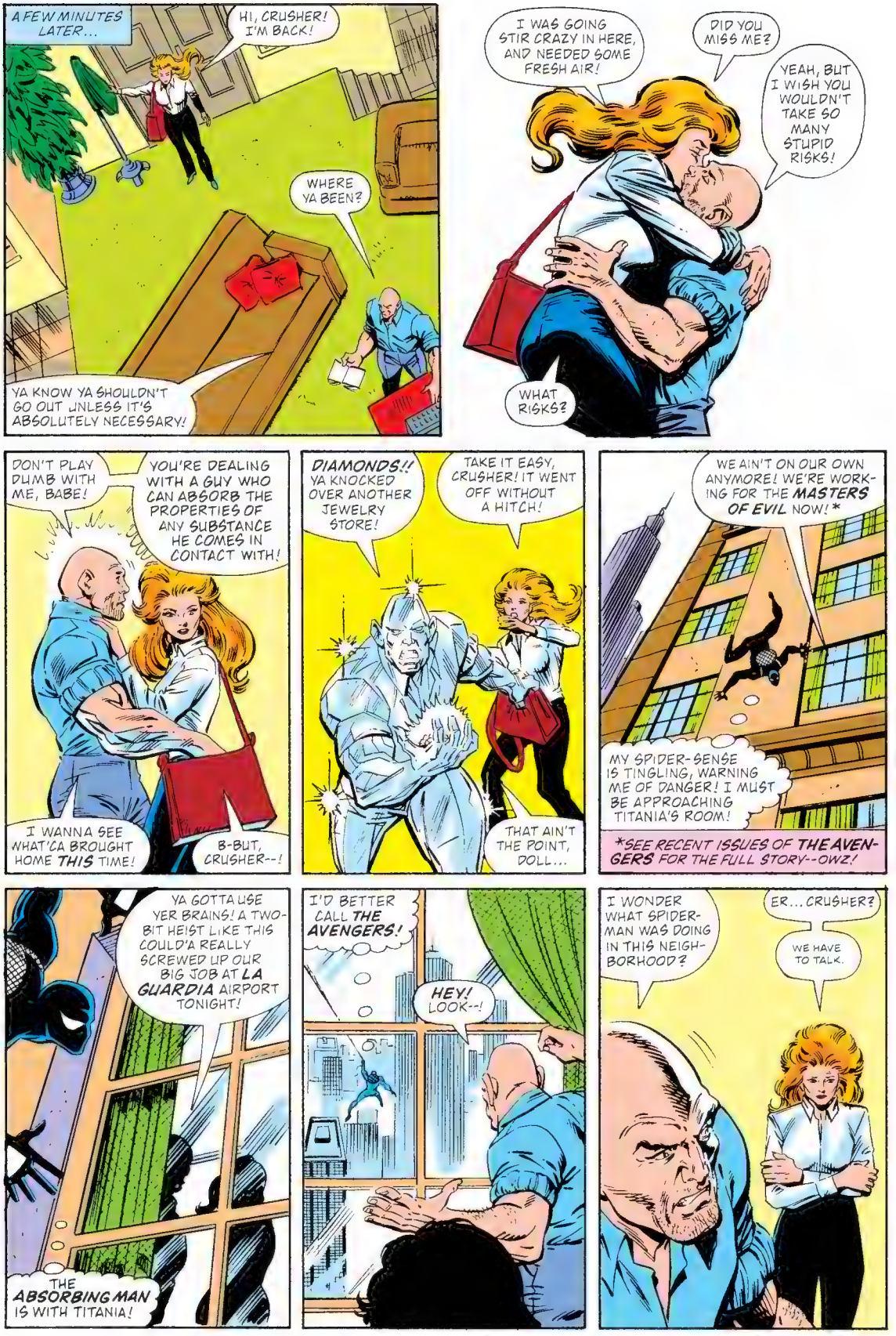

WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I'VE GOTTA FIND SPIDEY...
...BUT, IT'S MUCH TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME TO GO OUT LOOKING FOR HIM!
"YOU GOT TO FACE YOUR FEARS," MY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH USED TO SAY.
"FACE 'EM, AND CRUSH 'EM... BEFORE THEY CRUSH YOU!"
GOT TO GET MOVING! I'VE ALREADY WASTED ENOUGH TIME IN THIS STUPID ALLEY! CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER!
SPIDEY KNOWS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HIS BIGGEST FAN! HE WON'T LET ME DOWN!
HE'LL GET THE REAL HOBGOBLIN -- AND FORCE HIM TO CLEAR ME WITH THE COPS!
SPIDEY'LL FIX EVERYTHING! ALL I GOTTA DO IS FIND HIM!
BUT, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, A SQUAD CAR RESPONDS TO AN URGENT SUMMONS A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, AND --
POLICE
POLICE
WEEEEE!
OH, NO! NO! I CAN'T LET THE POLICE FIND ME!
I HATE BEING LOCKED UP!
I HATE IT!


MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY...
WHERE CAN FLASH BE HIDING?
I'M GETTING REAL TIRED OF WEB-SWINGING ALL OVER TOWN LOOKING FOR HIM!
HECK, I'M JUST TIRED OF WEB-SWINGING PERIOD... ESPECIALLY AFTER THE WAY I COULDN'T EVEN SAVE THE LIFE OF THAT POOR LITTLE KID YESTERDAY! *
* SEE PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #118 -- OWZ.
I JUST CAN'T CUT IT, ANYMORE! IT'S TIME TO STOP PLAYING SPIDER-MAN!
BUT, I CAN'T RETIRE MY WEBS WHILE AN OLD FRIEND LIKE FLASH IS STILL IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW!
SO, WHERE IS HE ALREADY?!
MAYBE THERE'S MY ANSWER NOW--!
WEEEEE!
MAY AS WELL HITCH A RIDE, AND FIND OUT!
THUMP
DID SOMETHING JUST LAND ON OUR ROOF?
YEAH, SURE, SANTA AND HIS REINDEER MUST'A COME EARLY THIS YEAR!
BETTER CHECK MY CAMERA!
I MIGHT NEED IT TO SNAP SOME PIX FOR THE DAILY BUGLE!
I'VE BEEN MAKING SOME GOOD MONEY RECENTLY-- SNAPPING PIX, AND TRAVELING AROUND THE GLOBE FOR NOW MAGAZINE * -- BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THOSE ASSIGNMENTS WILL CONTINUE!
UH, OH! THERE SEEMS TO BE A BIG DISTURBANCE UP AHEAD--!
* SEE RECENT ISSUES OF THE ALL-NEW WEB OF SPIDER-MAN -- OWZ.

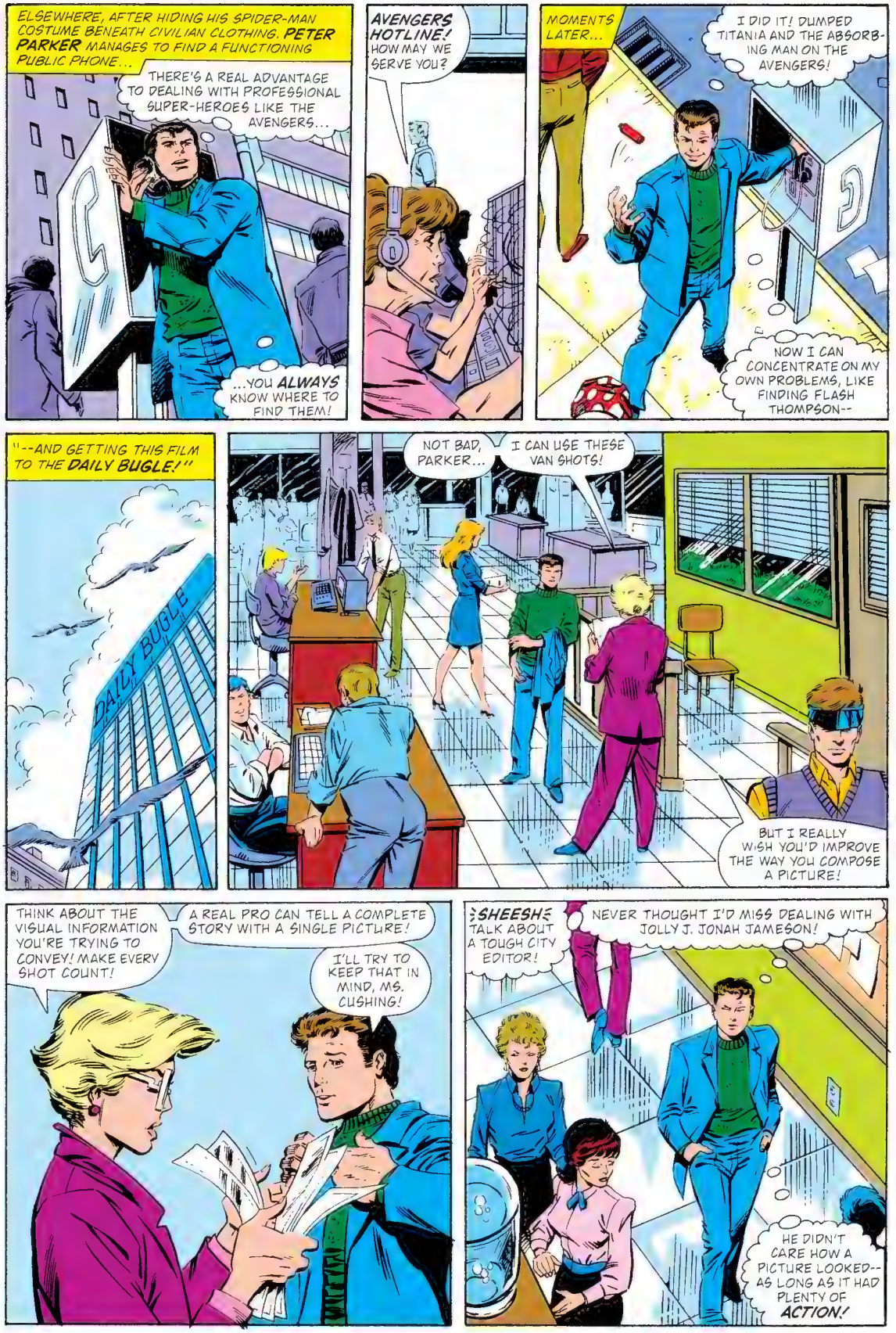

BACK OFF, COPPERS!
I ALREADY TOOK WHAT I WANTED FROM THE JEWELRY STORE!
JUST STAY OUT OF MY WAY, AND NO ONE GETS HURT!
OTHERWISE, IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!
GINO'S FINE JEWELRY
IT'S... TITANIA!!
I NEVER WANTED TO RUN INTO HER, AGAIN!
I STILL GET QUEASY WHENEVER I REMEMBER HOW SHE ALMOST POUNDED THE SHE-HULK TO DEATH WITH HER BARE HANDS!
I MANAGED TO BEAT HER THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, BUT I ALWAYS CHALKED THAT UP TO DUMB LUCK!*
*AS SHOWN IN THE VERY FIRST SECRET WARS LIMITED SERIES--OWZ.
I DON'T WANT TO MIX IT UP WITH A LIVING POWER-HOUSE LIKE HER--NOT NOW--OR EVER AGAIN!
THIS ISN'T MY FIGHT! I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN FINDING FLASH THOMPSON, AND TRASHING MY WEBS!
AW, WHO AM I TRYING TO KID? I CAN'T LEAVE NOW!
OHMIGOSH! THAT FIGURE LEAPING TOWARD ME-- SPIDER-MAN!
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER MANAGED TO FLATTEN ME!
I DON'T DARE FIGHT HIM, AGAIN!
I'D ONLY LOSE!

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, LADY?
GOT A DATE?
CAN'T LET HIM STOP ME! NOT NOW! THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN TO CRUSHER WHEN HE TOLD ME TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE?
SAY, WHATEVER DID HAPPEN TO THAT BIG, UGLY GALOOT YOU USED TO PAL WITH?
YOU LEAVE CRUSHER CREEL OUT OF THIS, YOU WALL-CRAWLING, LITTLE FREAK!
CWAM!!
IS THAT CLEAR?!
SHEESH! I WAS ONLY MAKING POLITE CONVERSATION!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE IT SO PERSONAL!
THAT'S ONE LADY I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MAD-- EVER AGAIN!
THIS IS THE FIFTEENTH FLOOR, FOR GOSH SAKES!
THWIPP
I JUST HOPE I CAN WEB THIS VAN IN PLACE BEFORE IT FALLS ON THE CROWDS BELOW!
DON'T KNOW HOW THEY'LL EVER GET IT BACK TO GROUND LEVEL--
--BUT, I'VE GOT OTHER PROBLEMS!

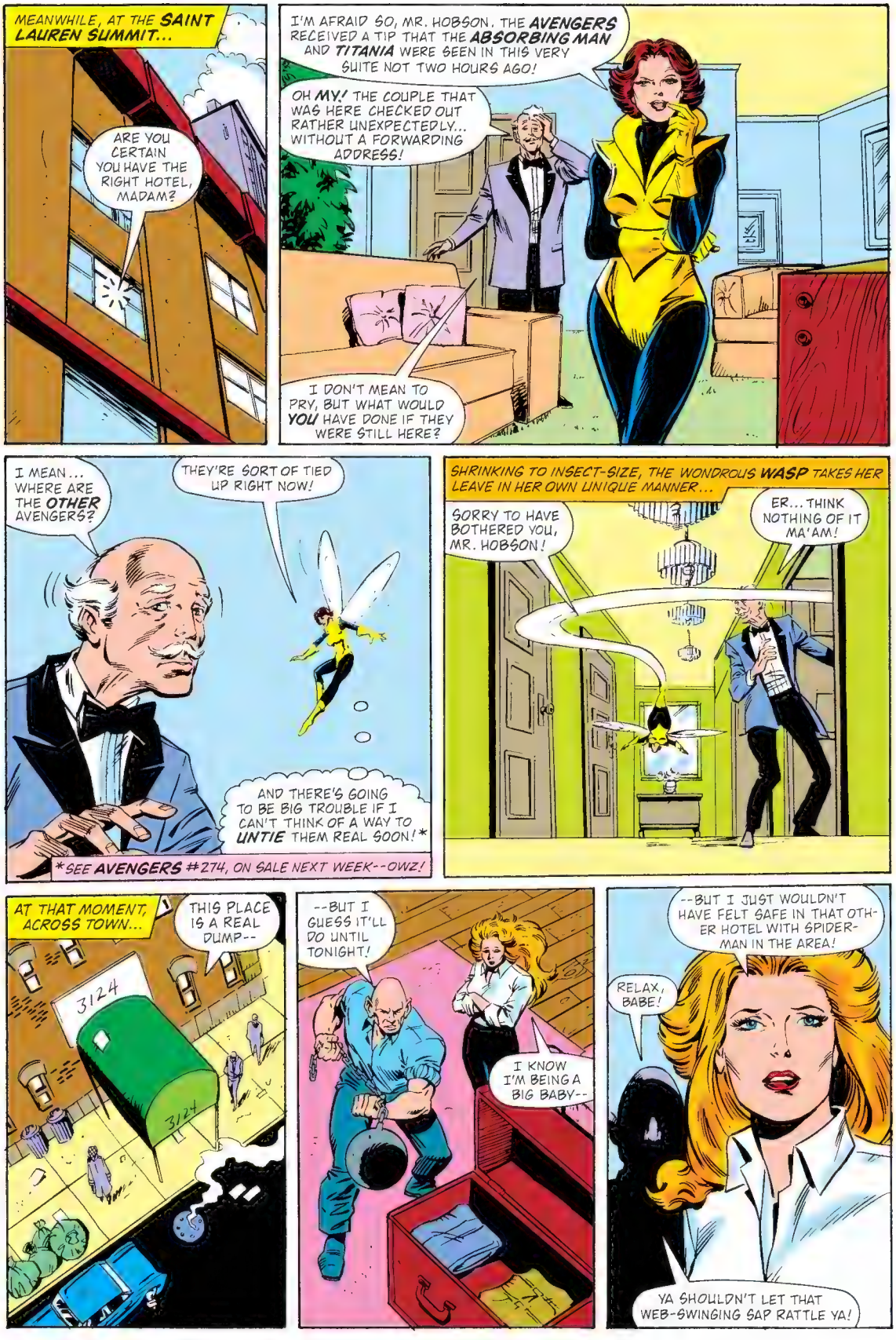
AND SO, MOMENTS LATER...
THESE PICTURES I SNAPPED OF THE VAN OUGHT TO BRING A NICE SMILE TO MY CITY EDITOR'S LIPS--
AND, A LARGE PAYCHECK TO ME!
TITANIA MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY IN ALL THE CONFUSION...
...BUT, SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM FOLLOWING HER!
JUST THEN, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...
NO ONE CAN SEE ME BACK HERE!
I WON'T GET A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO SLIP MY CIVVIES OUT OF MY SHOULDER BAG-- AND OVER MY COSTUME!
BARELY A MINUTE LATER...
THOSE POOR DUMB COP-PERS!
WEEE!
POLICE
POLICE
THEY'RE KNOCKING THEMSELVES OUT, LOOKING FOR A SIX AND HALF FOOT TALL BLONDE!
BUT, WITH THIS BULKY JACKET AND CAP, I CAN EASILY PASS FOR A MAN... IF NO ONE LOOKS TOO CLOSELY!
TAXI--!
HOWEVER, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT...
THAT'S TITANIA--!
NO DISGUSE CAN FOOL MY TRUSTY OL' SPIDER-SENSE!
MAY AS WELL FOLLOW HER CAB, AND SEE WHERE SHE'S HEADED!
AND SO...
SHE'S REALLY MOVED UP IN THE WORLD!
THAT'S ONE OF THE FANCIEST HOTELS IN THE CITY!

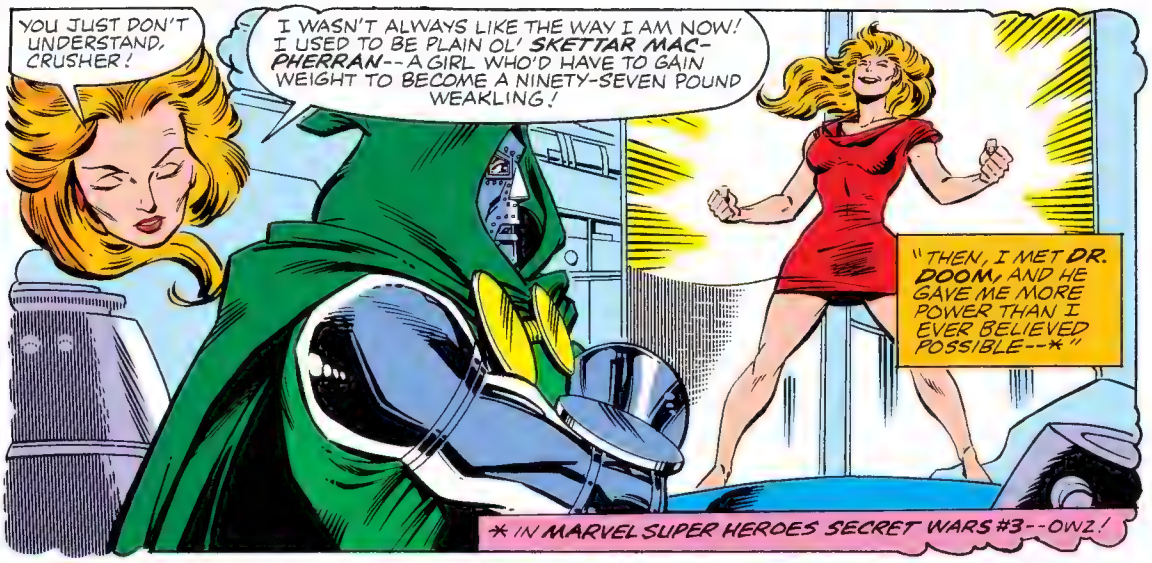

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
HI, CRUSHER! I'M BACK!
WHERE YA BEEN?
YA KNOW YA SHOULDN'T GO OUT UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!
I WAS GOING STIR CRAZY IN HERE, AND NEEDED SOME FRESH AIR!
DID YOU MISS ME?
YEAH, BUT I WISH YOU WOULDN'T TAKE SO MANY STUPID RISKS!
WHAT RISKS?
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME, BABE!
YOU'RE DEALING WITH A GUY WHO CAN ABSORB THE PROPERTIES OF ANY SUBSTANCE HE COMES IN CONTACT WITH!
I WANNA SEE WHAT'CA BROUGHT HOME THIS TIME!
B-BUT, CRUSHER--!
DIAMONDS!! YA KNOCKED OVER ANOTHER JEWELRY STORE!
TAKE IT EASY, CRUSHER! IT WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH!
THAT AIN'T THE POINT, DOLL...
WE AIN'T ON OUR OWN ANYMORE! WE'RE WORKING FOR THE MASTERS OF EVIL NOW! *
MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING, WARNING ME OF DANGER! I MUST BE APPROACHING TITANIA'S ROOM!
*SEE RECENT ISSUES OF THE AVENGERS FOR THE FULL STORY--OWZ!
YA GOTTA USE YER BRAINS! A TWO-BIT HEIST LIKE THIS COULD'A REALLY SCREWED UP OUR BIG JOB AT LA GUARDIA AIRPORT TONIGHT!
THE ABSORBING MAN IS WITH TITANIA!
I'D BETTER CALL THE AVENGERS!
HEY! LOOK--!
I WONDER WHAT SPIDER-MAN WAS DOING IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD?
ER... CRUSHER?
WE HAVE TO TALK.

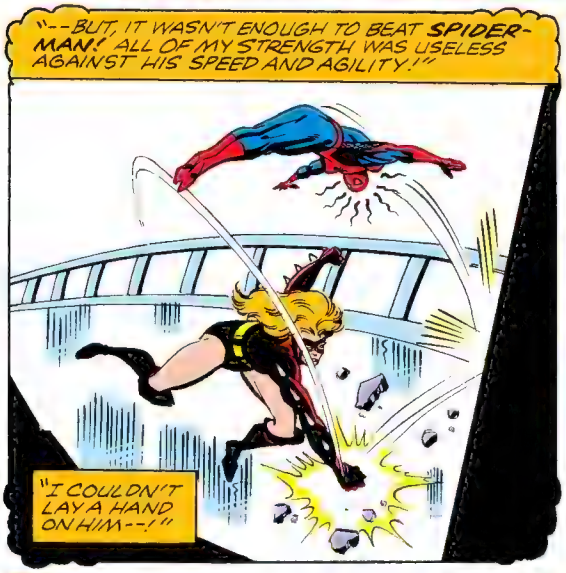
MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, AT THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 23RD PRECINCT...
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH EXCUSES!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO SEARCH EVERY BUILDING IN IN THIS BLASTED CITY--
--I WANT FLASH THOMPSON FOUND!
THAT MISERABLE PUNK MADE US ALL LOOK LIKE IDIOTS WHEN HE ESCAPED FROM OUR JAIL!
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM BACK!
OUR PRIDE'S ON THE LINE!
DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY, BUT FIND HIM!
WHEWE I'VE NEVER SEEN CAPTAIN KEATING GET SO WORKED UP!
YEAH, HE REALLY SEEMS TO HAVE A THING FOR THIS THOMPSON KID!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE HAD A PERSONAL STAKE IN THIS CASE!
THOSE STUPID FOOLS--!
IF THEY ONLY REALIZED WHAT THEY WERE SAYING--!
THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THIS CASE MEANS TO ME!
NEVER!!


ELSEWHERE, AFTER HIDING HIS SPIDER-MAN COSTUME BENEATH CIVILIAN CLOTHING, PETER PARKER MANAGES TO FIND A FUNCTIONING PUBLIC PHONE...
THERE'S A REAL ADVANTAGE TO DEALING WITH PROFESSIONAL SUPER-HEROES LIKE THE AVENGERS...
...YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE TO FIND THEM!
AVENGERS HOTLINE! HOW MAY WE SERVE YOU?
MOMENTS LATER...
I DID IT! DUMPED TITANIA AND THE ABSORBING MAN ON THE AVENGERS!
NOW I CAN CONCENTRATE ON MY OWN PROBLEMS, LIKE FINDING FLASH THOMPSON--
"--AND GETTING THIS FILM TO THE DAILY BUGLE!"
DAILY BUGLE
NOT BAD, PARKER...
I CAN USE THESE VAN SHOTS!
BUT I REALLY WISH YOU'D IMPROVE THE WAY YOU COMPOSE A PICTURE!
THINK ABOUT THE VISUAL INFORMATION YOU'RE TRYING TO CONVEY! MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!
A REAL PRO CAN TELL A COMPLETE STORY WITH A SINGLE PICTURE!
I'LL TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND, MS. CUSHING!
SHEESH! TALK ABOUT A TOUGH CITY EDITOR!
NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS DEALING WITH JOLLY J. JONAH JAMESON!
HE DIDN'T CARE HOW A PICTURE LOOKED--AS LONG AS IT HAD PLENTY OF ACTION!

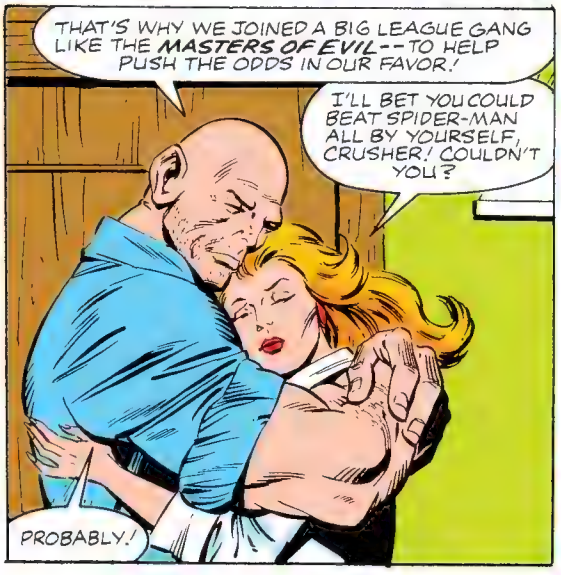
WHOA! I WAS SO LOST IN THOUGHT, I ALMOST WALKED RIGHT PAST BETTY LEEDS!
HEY, PRETTY LADY-- I'VE GOT A BROKEN WATCH WITH A HAPPIER FACE THAN YOURS!
WHAT'S GOT YOU DOWN?
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK, PARKER--
--UNLESS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THIS OFFICE WHO DIDN'T KNOW MY WIFE WAS SECRETLY SEEING FLASH THOMPSON BEFORE HE WAS ARRESTED!
WHY DID MY SPIDER-SENSE SUDDENLY START BUZZING?
NED, PLEASE--!
I HOPE THE COPS FIND HER FUGITIVE BOY-FRIEND--AND BLOW HIM AWAY!
YOU'RE WAY OUT OF LINE, FELLA! FLASH IS MY FRIEND, TOO!
BUTT OUT, PARKER! THIS IS STRICTLY BETWEEN BETTY AND ME!
NOT UNTIL YOU CALM DOWN, LEEDS!
I SUPPOSE YOU THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR A WIFE TO CHEAT ON HER HUSBAND!
NO--BUT I WON'T LET YOU HURT HER, EITHER!
ENOUGH, GENTLEMEN! THIS IS A NEWS-ROOM, NOT THE CORNER SCHOOLYARD! START ACTING LIKE RESPONSIBLE ADULTS, OR TAKE IT OUTSIDE!
UH... SORRY, ROBBIE!
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS, PARKER!
I SWEAR YOU HAVEN'T!
WHY'D YOU STOP 'EM? THEY WERE JUST GETTING INTER-ESTING!
SHUT UP, BANNON!
WHAT'S WITH NED? SINCE WHEN IS HE SUCH A HOT-HEAD?!

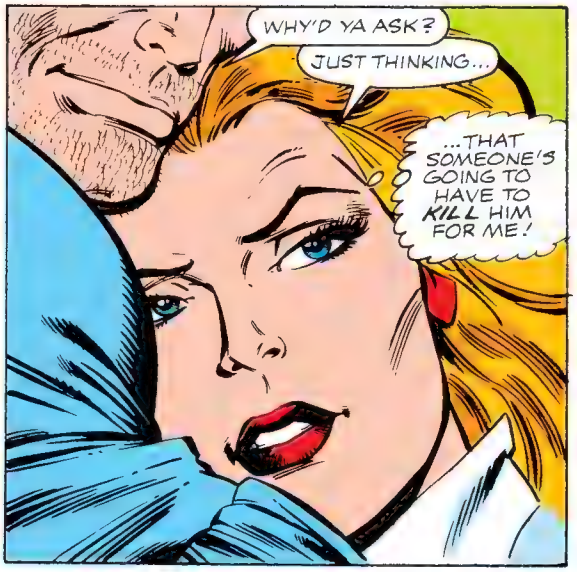

MEANWHILE, AT THE SAINT LAUREN SUMMIT...
ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT HOTEL, MADAM?
I'M AFRAID SO, MR. HOBSON. THE AVENGERS RECEIVED A TIP THAT THE ABSORBING MAN AND TITANIA WERE SEEN IN THIS VERY SUITE NOT TWO HOURS AGO!
OH MY! THE COUPLE THAT WAS HERE CHECKED OUT RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY... WITHOUT A FORWARDING ADDRESS!
I DON'T MEAN TO PRY, BUT WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THEY WERE STILL HERE?
I MEAN... WHERE ARE THE OTHER AVENGERS?
THEY'RE SORT OF TIED UP RIGHT NOW!
AND THERE'S GOING TO BE BIG TROUBLE IF I CAN'T THINK OF A WAY TO UNTIE THEM REAL SOON!*
*SEE AVENGERS #274, ON SALE NEXT WEEK--OWZ!
SHRINKING TO INSECT-SIZE, THE WONDROUS WASP TAKES HER LEAVE IN HER OWN UNIQUE MANNER...
SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU, MR. HOBSON!
ER... THINK NOTHING OF IT MA'AM!
AT THAT MOMENT, ACROSS TOWN...
THIS PLACE IS A REAL DUMP--
3124
--BUT I GUESS IT'LL DO UNTIL TONIGHT!
I KNOW I'M BEING A BIG BABY--
--BUT I JUST WOULDN'T HAVE FELT SAFE IN THAT OTHER HOTEL WITH SPIDER-MAN IN THE AREA!
RELAX, BABE!
YA SHOULDN'T LET THAT WEB-SWINGING SAP RATTLE YA!

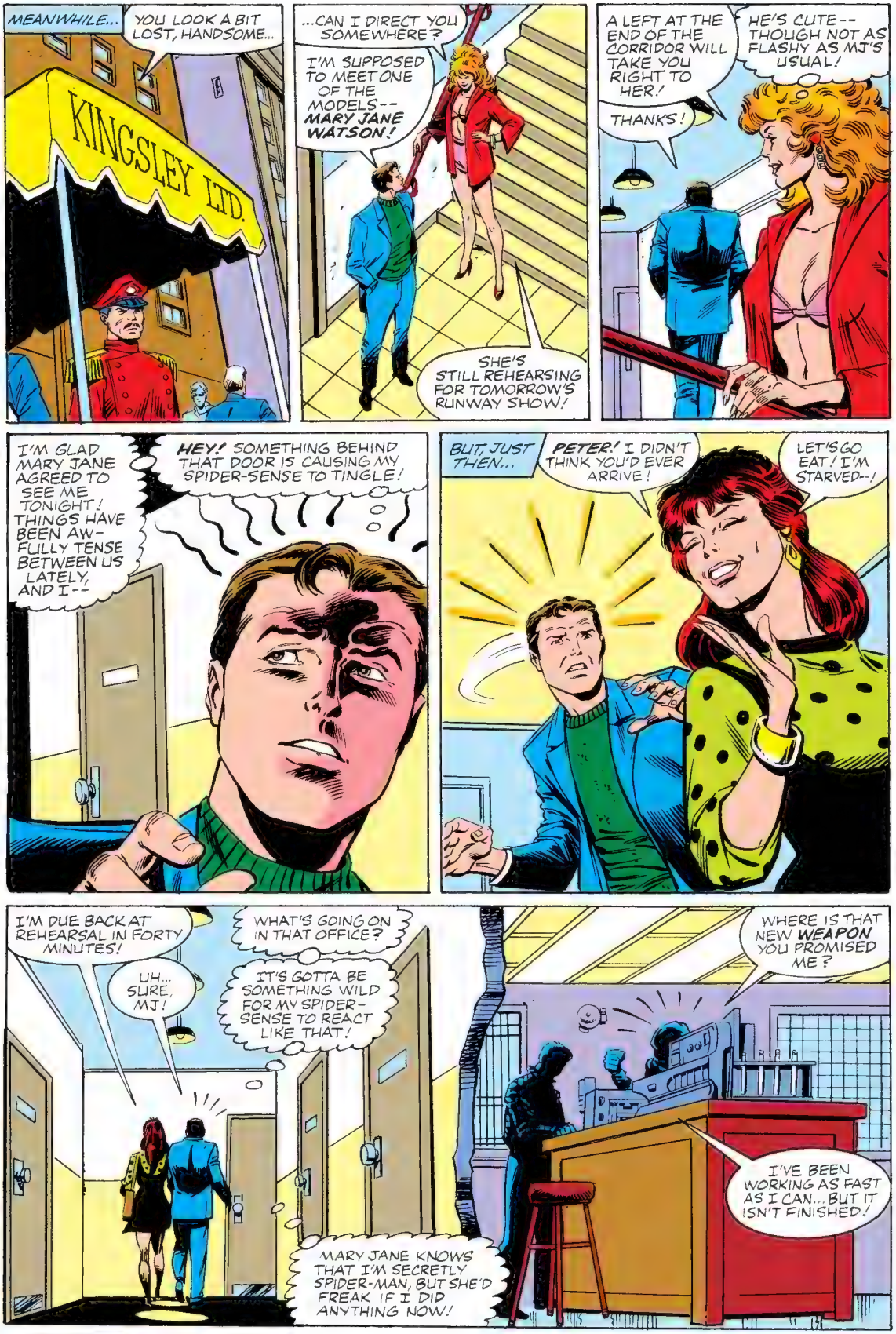

YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, CRUSHER!
I WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THE WAY I AM NOW! I USED TO BE PLAIN OL' SKETTAR MACPHERRAN--A GIRL WHO'D HAVE TO GAIN WEIGHT TO BECOME A NINETY-SEVEN POUND WEAKLING!
"THEN, I MET DR. DOOM, AND HE GAVE ME MORE POWER THAN I EVER BELIEVED POSSIBLE--*"
* IN MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS #3--OWZ!


"--BUT, IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO BEAT SPIDER-MAN! ALL OF MY STRENGTH WAS USELESS AGAINST HIS SPEED AND AGILITY!"
"I COULDN'T LAY A HAND ON HIM--!"

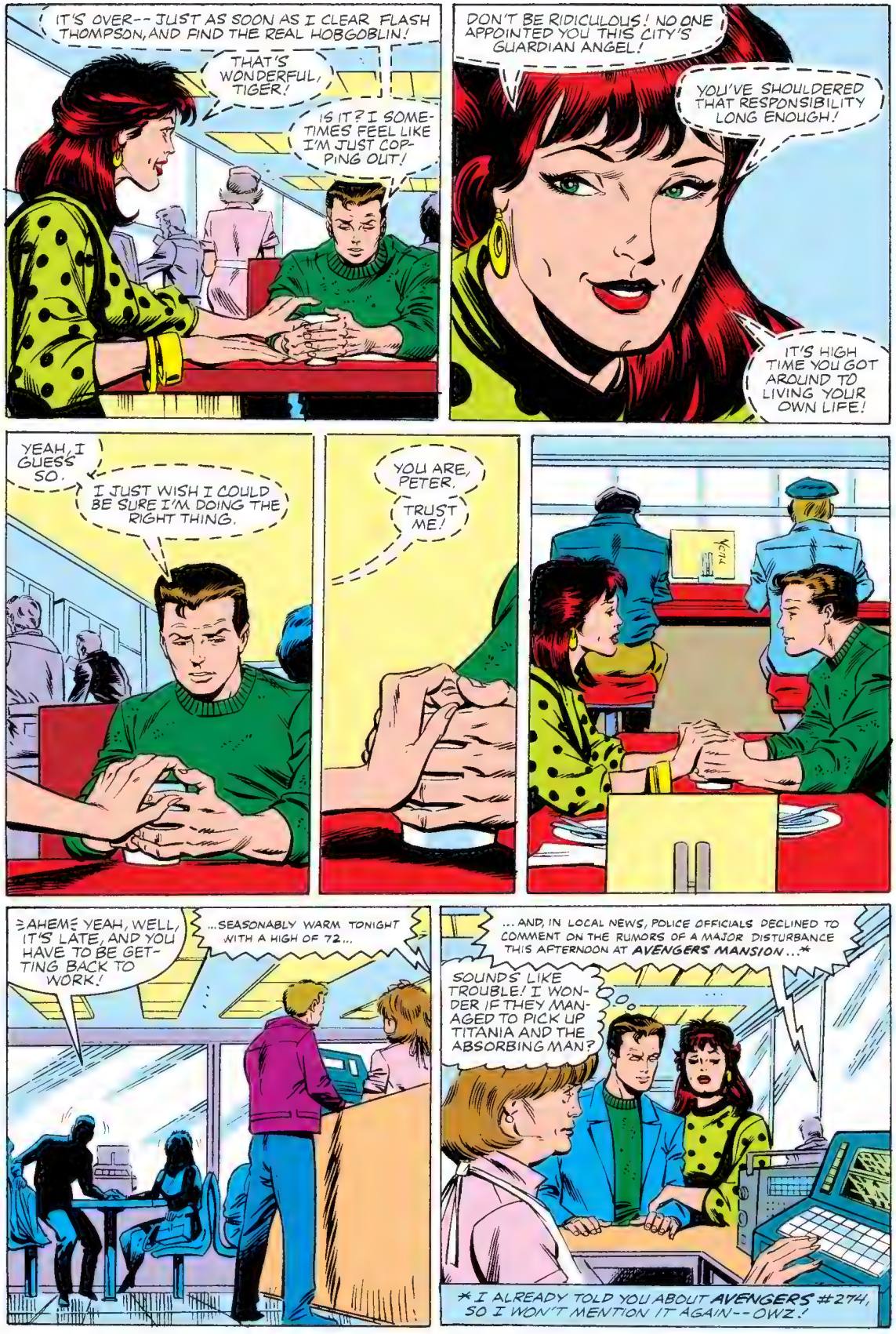
SO YOU LOST A FIGHT! BIG DEAL!
PUT IT BEHIND YA! EVERYONE GETS TRASHED ON OCCASION! EVEN ME!
NO MATTER HOW TOUGH YA ARE, THERE'S ALWAYS SOME JOKER WHO'S TOUGHER!

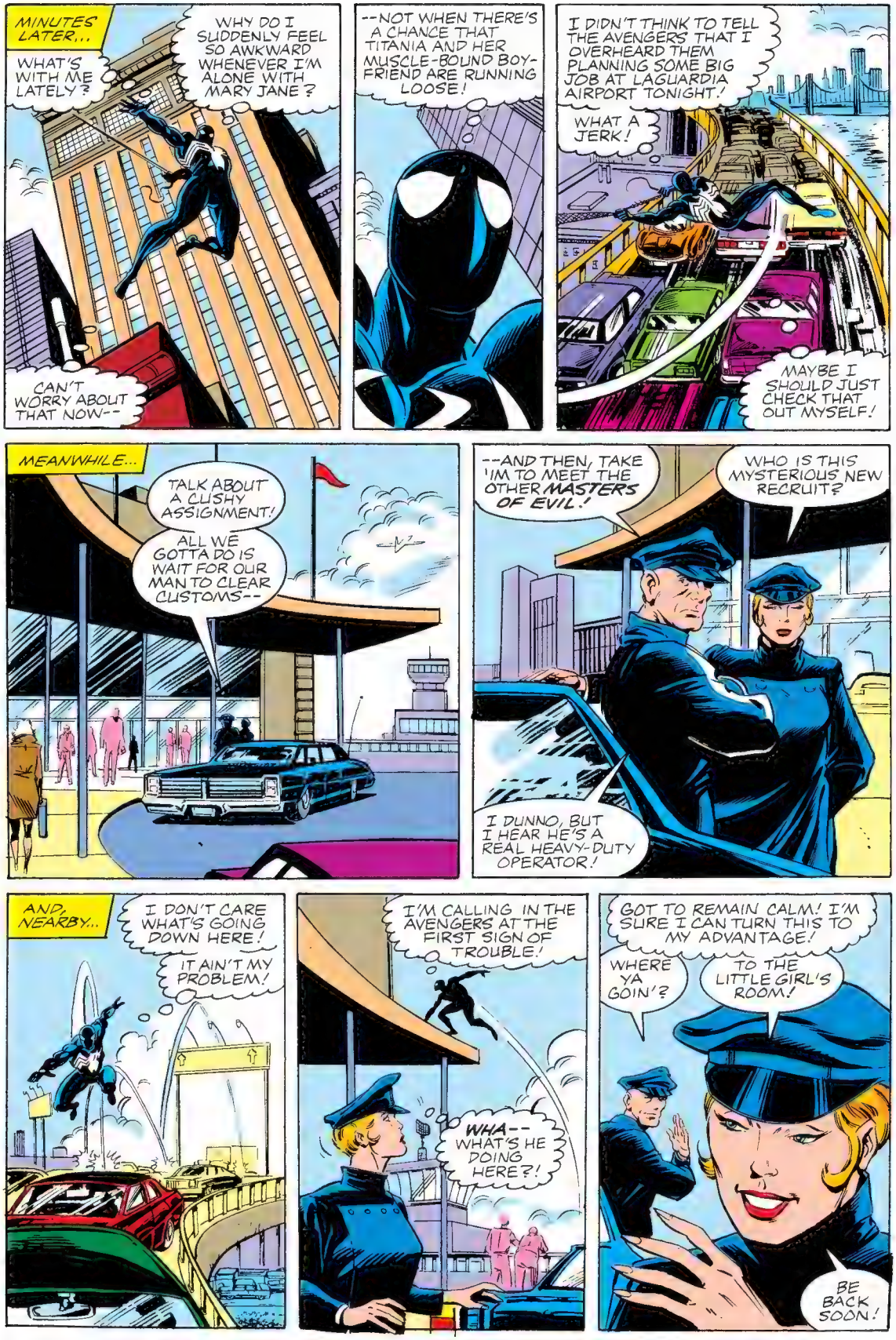

THAT'S WHY WE JOINED A BIG LEAGUE GANG LIKE THE MASTERS OF EVIL--TO HELP PUSH THE ODDS IN OUR FAVOR!
I'LL BET YOU COULD BEAT SPIDER-MAN ALL BY YOURSELF, CRUSHER! COULDN'T YOU?
PROBABLY!

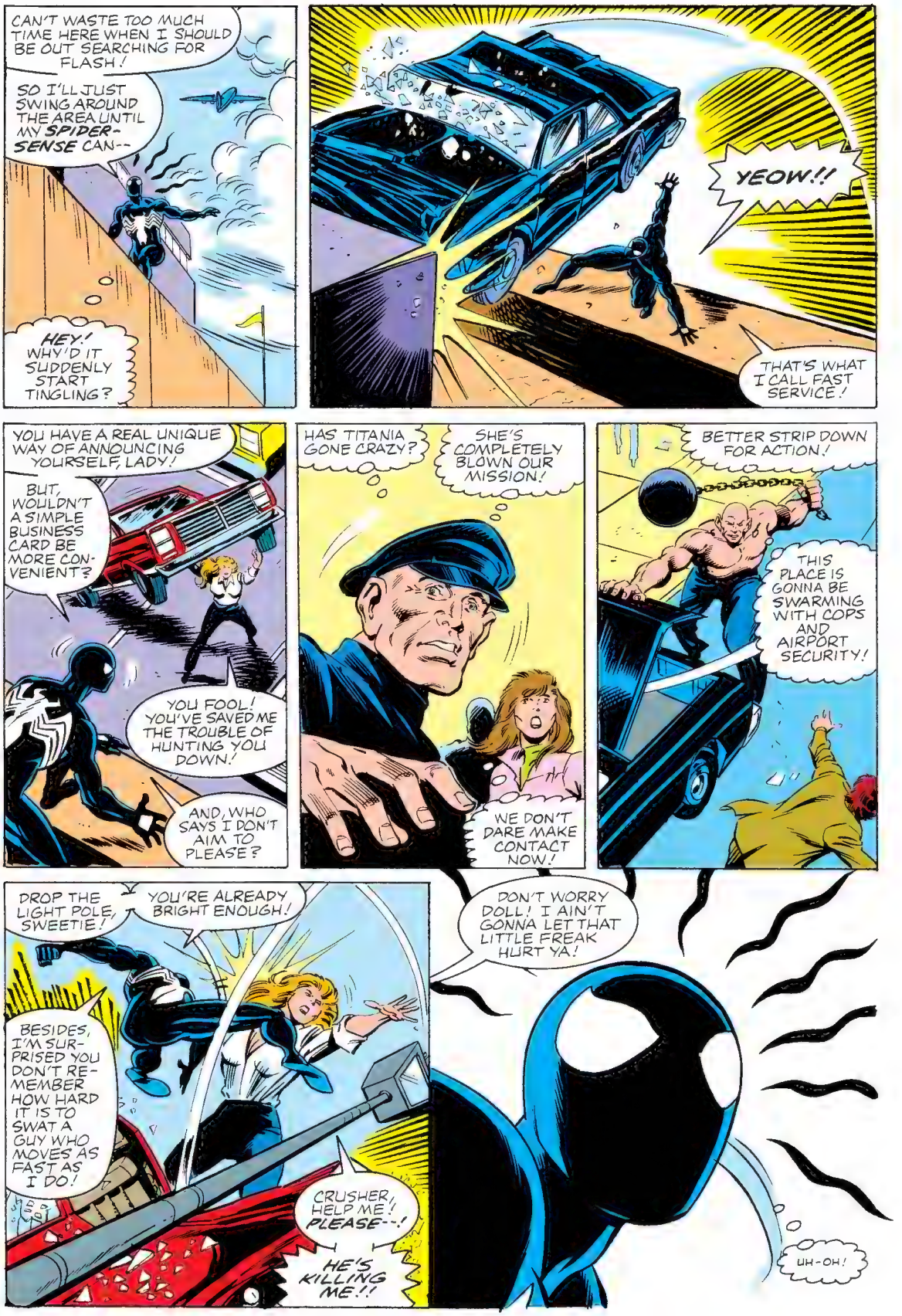

WHY'D YA ASK?
JUST THINKING...
...THAT SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE TO KILL HIM FOR ME!

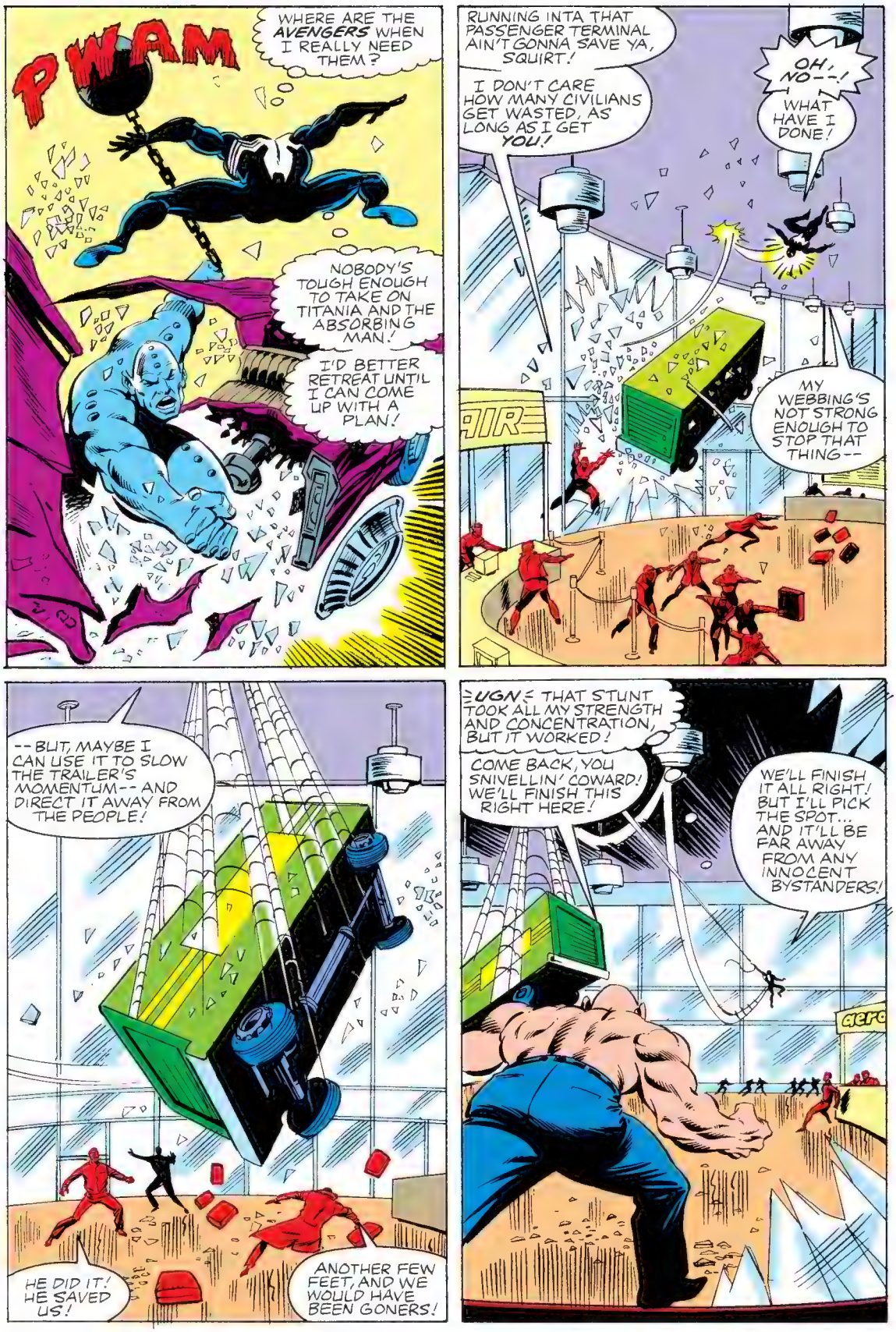

MEANWHILE...
YOU LOOK A BIT LOST, HANDSOME...
KINGSLEY LTD.
...CAN I DIRECT YOU SOMEWHERE?
I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET ONE OF THE MODELS-- MARY JANE WATSON!
SHE'S STILL REHEARSING FOR TOMORROW'S RUNWAY SHOW!
A LEFT AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR WILL TAKE YOU RIGHT TO HER!
HE'S CUTE-- THOUGH NOT AS FLASHY AS MJ'S USUAL!
THANKS!
I'M GLAD MARY JANE AGREED TO SEE ME TONIGHT! THINGS HAVE BEEN AW-FULLY TENSE BETWEEN US LATELY, AND I--
HEY! SOMETHING BEHIND THAT DOOR IS CAUSING MY SPIDER-SENSE TO TINGLE!
BUT, JUST THEN...
PETER! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVER ARRIVE!
LET'S GO EAT! I'M STARVED--!
I'M DUE BACK AT REHEARSAL IN FORTY MINUTES!
UH... SURE, MJ!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT OFFICE?
IT'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING WILD FOR MY SPIDER-SENSE TO REACT LIKE THAT!
MARY JANE KNOWS THAT I'M SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN, BUT SHE'D FREAK IF I DID ANYTHING NOW!
WHERE IS THAT NEW WEAPON YOU PROMISED ME?
I'VE BEEN WORKING AS FAST AS I CAN... BUT IT ISN'T FINISHED!

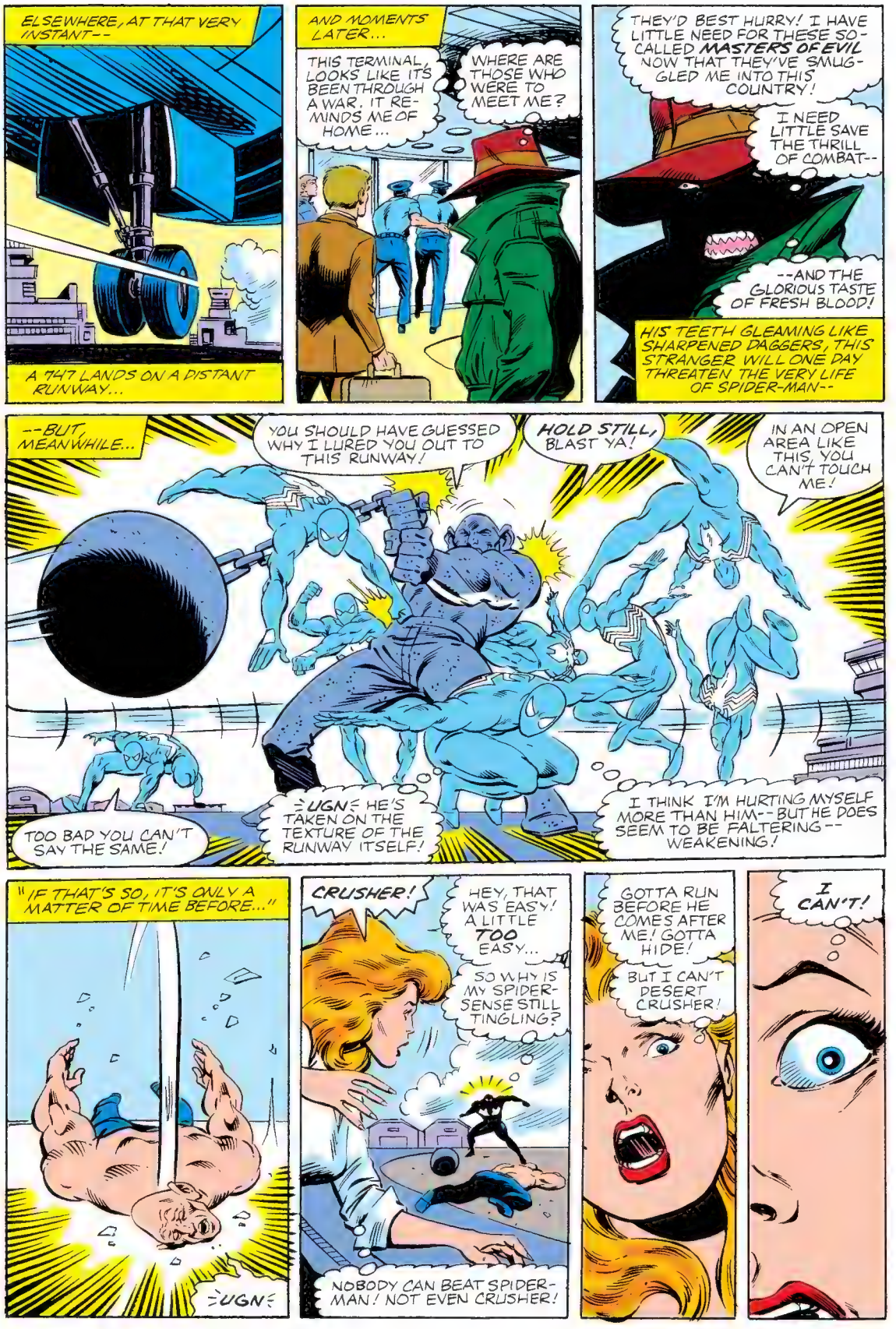
HERE--! I'VE MANAGED TO ASSEMBLE ANOTHER BATCH OF GRENADES FOR YOU.
BAH!
SWAK
WHAT GOOD ARE MERE GRENADES AGAINST A POWERFUL FOE LIKE SPIDER-MAN?
HE MUST BE CRUSHED! TOTALLY HUMILIATED! AND FOR THAT I NEED A DEADLY, NEW WEAPON!
YOU MUST NOT FAIL ME, KINGSLEY!
I WON'T, HOBGOBLIN! I SWEAR I WON'T!
ALL OF THE DEFEATS HE'S SUFFERED AT THE WALL-CRAWLER'S HANDS MUST BE GETTING TO HIM!
HE'S GROWING MORE VIOLENT! MORE OBSESSED WITH THE DESIRE TO DESTROY SPIDER-MAN!
I'D BETTER TAKE SOME SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS, TO MAKE CERTAIN HE NEVER TURNS THAT ANGER AGAINST ME...
AND, TWO BLOCKS AWAY...
YOU REALLY CALLED THE AVENGERS?!
THAT'S RIGHT! DIDN'T YOU BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAID I WAS QUITTING THE WEB-BIZ?

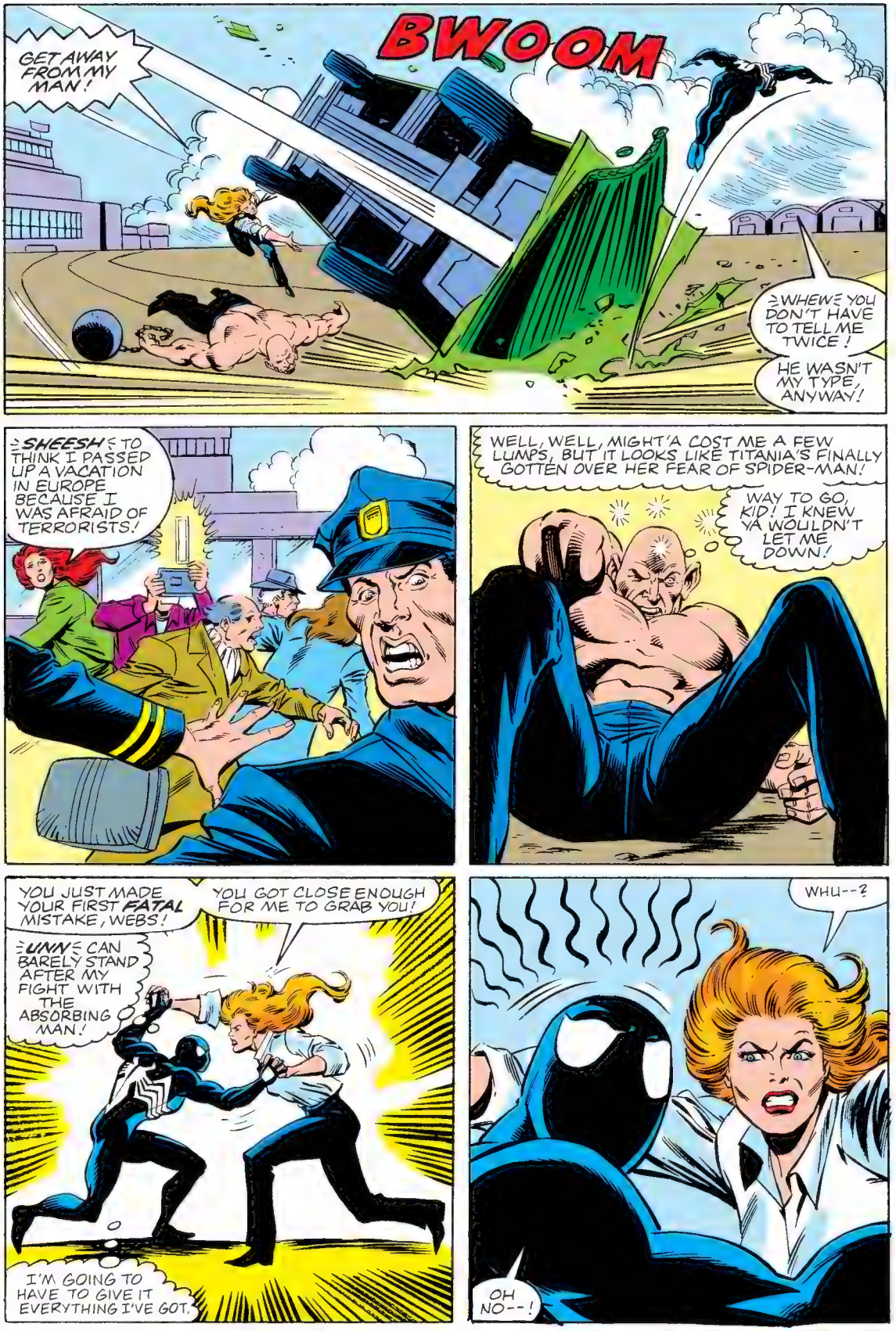

IT'S OVER-- JUST AS SOON AS I CLEAR FLASH THOMPSON, AND FIND THE REAL HOBGOBLIN!
THAT'S WONDERFUL, TIGER!
IS IT? I SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE I'M JUST COPPING OUT!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! NO ONE APPOINTED YOU THIS CITY'S GUARDIAN ANGEL!
YOU'VE SHOULDERED THAT RESPONSIBILITY LONG ENOUGH!
IT'S HIGH TIME YOU GOT AROUND TO LIVING YOUR OWN LIFE!
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
I JUST WISH I COULD BE SURE I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING.
YOU ARE, PETER.
TRUST ME!
AHEM! YEAH, WELL, IT'S LATE, AND YOU HAVE TO BE GETTING BACK TO WORK!
...SEASONABLY WARM TONIGHT WITH A HIGH OF 72...
...AND, IN LOCAL NEWS, POLICE OFFICIALS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE RUMORS OF A MAJOR DISTURBANCE THIS AFTERNOON AT AVENGERS MANSION...*
SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE! I WONDER IF THEY MANAGED TO PICK UP TITANIA AND THE ABSORBING MAN?
* I ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT AVENGERS #274, SO I WON'T MENTION IT AGAIN--OWZ!


MINUTES LATER...
WHAT'S WITH ME LATELY?
WHY DO I SUDDENLY FEEL SO AWKWARD WHENEVER I'M ALONE WITH MARY JANE?
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW--
--NOT WHEN THERE'S A CHANCE THAT TITANIA AND HER MUSCLE-BOUND BOY-FRIEND ARE RUNNING LOOSE!
I DIDN'T THINK TO TELL THE AVENGERS THAT I OVERHEARD THEM PLANNING SOME BIG JOB AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT TONIGHT!
WHAT A JERK!
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CHECK THAT OUT MYSELF!
MEANWHILE...
TALK ABOUT A CUSHY ASSIGNMENT!
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS WAIT FOR OUR MAN TO CLEAR CUSTOMS--
--AND THEN, TAKE 'IM TO MEET THE OTHER MASTERS OF EVIL!
WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS NEW RECRUIT?
I DUNNO, BUT I HEAR HE'S A REAL HEAVY-DUTY OPERATOR!
AND, NEARBY...
I DON'T CARE WHAT'S GOING DOWN HERE!
IT AIN'T MY PROBLEM!
I'M CALLING IN THE AVENGERS AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE!
WHA-- WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
GOT TO REMAIN CALM! I'M SURE I CAN TURN THIS TO MY ADVANTAGE!
WHERE YA GOIN'?
TO THE LITTLE GIRL'S ROOM!
BE BACK SOON!

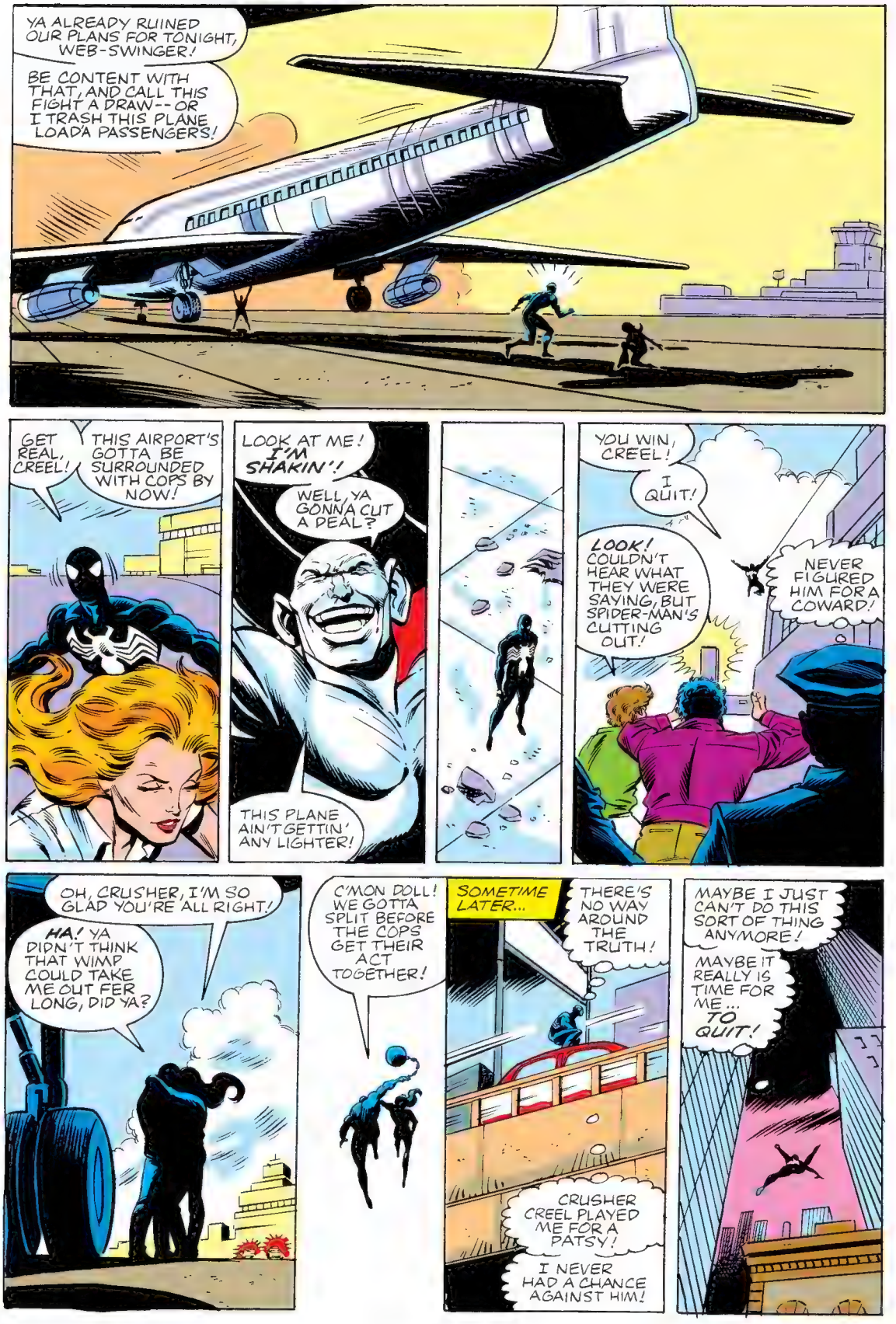

CAN'T WASTE TOO MUCH TIME HERE WHEN I SHOULD BE OUT SEARCHING FOR FLASH!
SO I'LL JUST SWING AROUND THE AREA UNTIL MY SPIDER-SENSE CAN--
HEY! WHY'D IT SUDDENLY START TINGLING?
YEOW!!
THAT'S WHAT I CALL FAST SERVICE!
YOU HAVE A REAL UNIQUE WAY OF ANNOUNCING YOURSELF, LADY!
BUT, WOULDN'T A SIMPLE BUSINESS CARD BE MORE CONVENIENT?
YOU FOOL! YOU'VE SAVED ME THE TROUBLE OF HUNTING YOU DOWN!
AND, WHO SAYS I DON'T AIM TO PLEASE?
HAS TITANIA GONE CRAZY?
SHE'S COMPLETELY BLOWN OUR MISSION!
WE DON'T DARE MAKE CONTACT NOW!
BETTER STRIP DOWN FOR ACTION!
THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE SWARMING WITH COPS AND AIRPORT SECURITY!
DROP THE LIGHT POLE, SWEETIE!
YOU'RE ALREADY BRIGHT ENOUGH!
BESIDES, I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T REMEMBER HOW HARD IT IS TO SWAT A GUY WHO MOVES AS FAST AS I DO!
CRUSHER, HELP ME! PLEASE--!
HE'S KILLING ME!!
DON'T WORRY DOLL! I AIN'T GONNA LET THAT LITTLE FREAK HURT YA!
UH-OH!


PWAM
WHERE ARE THE AVENGERS WHEN I REALLY NEED THEM?
NOBODY'S TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE ON TITANIA AND THE ABSORBING MAN!
I'D BETTER RETREAT UNTIL I CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN!
RUNNING INTA THAT PASSENGER TERMINAL AIN'T GONNA SAVE YA, SQUIRT!
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY CIVILIANS GET WASTED, AS LONG AS I GET YOU!
OH, NO--!
WHAT HAVE I DONE!
MY WEBBING'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THAT THING--
--BUT, MAYBE I CAN USE IT TO SLOW THE TRAILER'S MOMENTUM-- AND DIRECT IT AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE!
HE DID IT! HE SAVED US!
ANOTHER FEW FEET, AND WE WOULD HAVE BEEN GONERS!
UGN= THAT STUNT TOOK ALL MY STRENGTH AND CONCENTRATION, BUT IT WORKED!
COME BACK, YOU SNIVELLIN' COWARD! WE'LL FINISH THIS RIGHT HERE!
WE'LL FINISH IT ALL RIGHT! BUT I'LL PICK THE SPOT... AND IT'LL BE FAR AWAY FROM ANY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!


ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY INSTANT--
A 747 LANDS ON A DISTANT RUNWAY...
AND MOMENTS LATER...
THIS TERMINAL LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN THROUGH A WAR. IT REMINDS ME OF HOME...
WHERE ARE THOSE WHO WERE TO MEET ME?
THEY'D BEST HURRY! I HAVE LITTLE NEED FOR THESE SO-CALLED MASTERS OF EVIL NOW THAT THEY'VE SMUGGLED ME INTO THIS COUNTRY!
I NEED LITTLE SAVE THE THRILL OF COMBAT--
--AND THE GLORIOUS TASTE OF FRESH BLOOD!
HIS TEETH GLEAMING LIKE SHARPENED DAGGERS, THIS STRANGER WILL ONE DAY THREATEN THE VERY LIFE OF SPIDER-MAN--
--BUT, MEANWHILE...
YOU SHOULD HAVE GUESSED WHY I LURED YOU OUT TO THIS RUNWAY!
HOLD STILL, BLAST YA!
IN AN OPEN AREA LIKE THIS, YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME!
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SAY THE SAME!
=UGN= HE'S TAKEN ON THE TEXTURE OF THE RUNWAY ITSELF!
I THINK I'M HURTING MYSELF MORE THAN HIM--BUT HE DOES SEEM TO BE FALTERING--WEAKENING!
"IF THAT'S SO, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE..."
=UGN=
CRUSHER!
HEY, THAT WAS EASY! A LITTLE TOO EASY...
SO WHY IS MY SPIDER-SENSE STILL TINGLING?
NOBODY CAN BEAT SPIDER-MAN! NOT EVEN CRUSHER!
GOTTA RUN BEFORE HE COMES AFTER ME! GOTTA HIDE!
BUT I CAN'T DESERT CRUSHER!
I CAN'T!


GET AWAY FROM MY MAN!
BWOOM
WHEW! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!
HE WASN'T MY TYPE, ANYWAY!
SHEESH! TO THINK I PASSED UP A VACATION IN EUROPE BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF TERRORISTS!
WELL, WELL, MIGHT'A COST ME A FEW LUMPS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TITANIA'S FINALLY GOTTEN OVER HER FEAR OF SPIDER-MAN!
WAY TO GO, KID! I KNEW YA WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN!
YOU JUST MADE YOUR FIRST FATAL MISTAKE, WEBS!
YOU GOT CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ME TO GRAB YOU!
UNN! CAN BARELY STAND AFTER MY FIGHT WITH THE ABSORBING MAN!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.
WHU--?
OH NO--!

ENOUGH! THIS BATTLE ENDS RIGHT NOW!


YA ALREADY RUINED OUR PLANS FOR TONIGHT, WEB-SWINGER!
BE CONTENT WITH THAT, AND CALL THIS FIGHT A DRAW--OR I TRASH THIS PLANE LOAD'A PASSENGERS!
GET REAL, CREEL!
THIS AIRPORT'S GOTTA BE SURROUNDED WITH COPS BY NOW!
LOOK AT ME! I'M SHAKIN'!
WELL, YA GONNA CUT A DEAL?
THIS PLANE AIN'T GETTIN' ANY LIGHTER!
YOU WIN, CREEL!
I QUIT!
LOOK! COULDN'T HEAR WHAT THEY WERE SAYING, BUT SPIDER-MAN'S CUTTING OUT!
NEVER FIGURED HIM FOR A COWARD!
OH, CRUSHER, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
HA! YA DIDN'T THINK THAT WIMP COULD TAKE ME OUT FER LONG, DID YA?
C'MON DOLL! WE GOTTA SPLIT BEFORE THE COPS GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER!
SOMETIME LATER...
THERE'S NO WAY AROUND THE TRUTH!
CRUSHER CREEL PLAYED ME FOR A PATSY!
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!
MAYBE I JUST CAN'T DO THIS SORT OF THING ANYMORE!
MAYBE IT REALLY IS TIME FOR ME... TO QUIT!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...
HUMPH!
LOOKS LIKE J. JONAH JAMESON WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT WALL-CRAWLING CLOD ALL ALONG!
HE'S YELLOW!
BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN COWARD!!
UH-OH! HERE COMES MY BUS--!
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE! SPIDER-MAN'S NO COWARD!
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D RUN AWAY FROM ANYONE OR ANYTHING!
HE'D FACE UP TO HIS PROBLEMS-- NO MATTER HOW BAD THEY WERE!
THAT'S WHAT HE'D DO!
YEAH... ME,TOO!!
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE: GANG WAR!

THE HOBGOBLIN! JACK O'LANTERN! HAMMERHEAD! SILVERMANE! THE ROSE! BE HERE AS THE CITY IS TORN APART BY...

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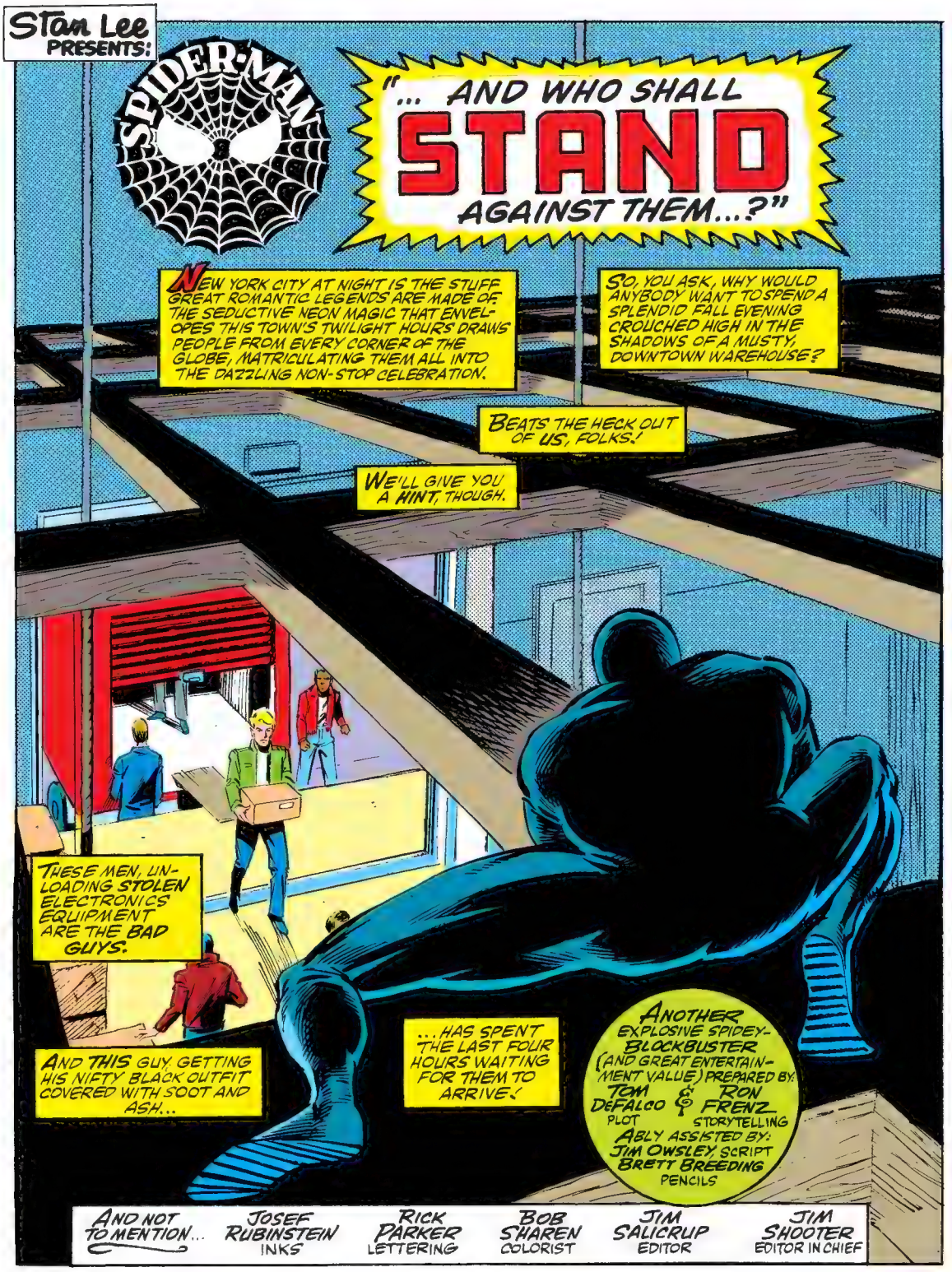
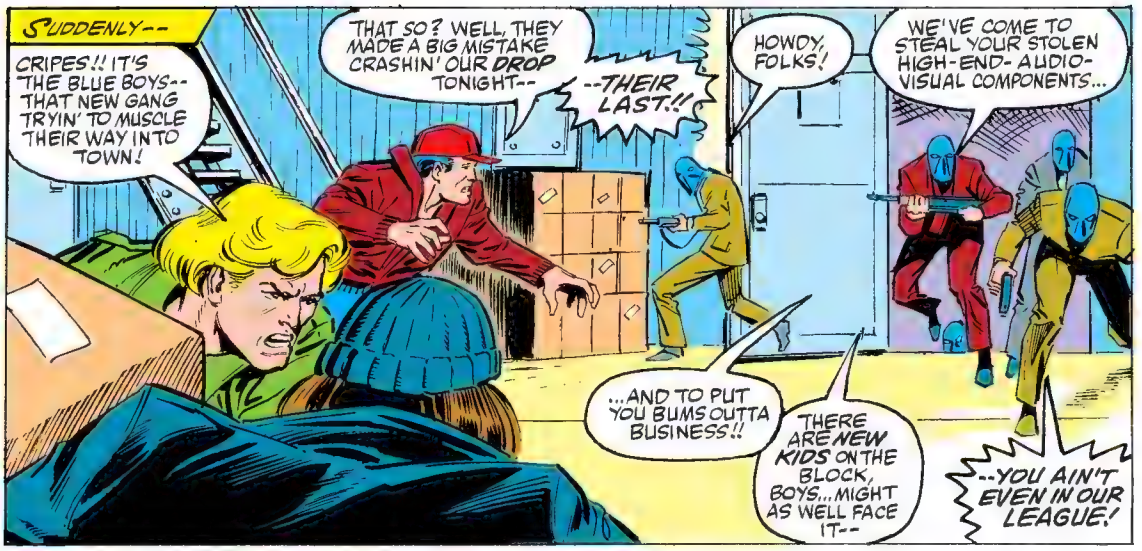
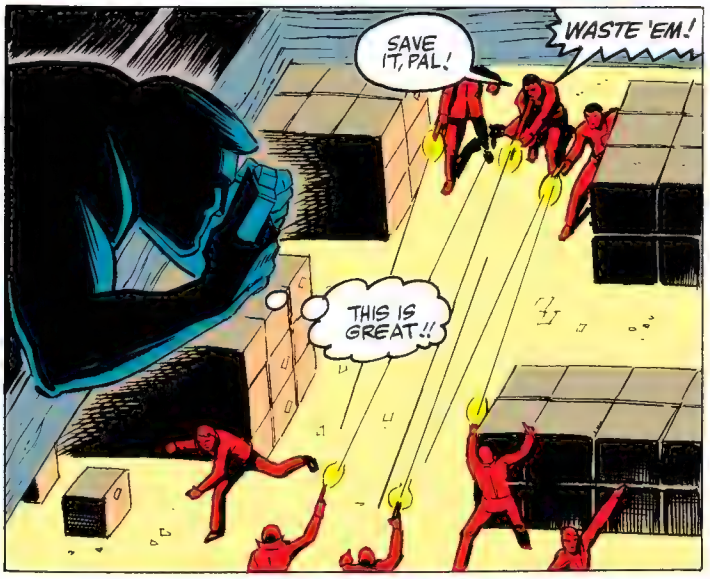
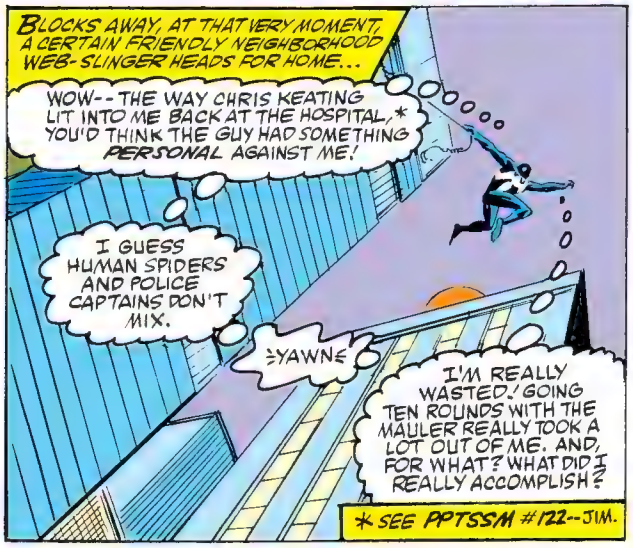
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
THE BATTLE TO BECOME THE NEW KINGPIN OF CRIME BEGINS!
GANG WAR
PART ONE

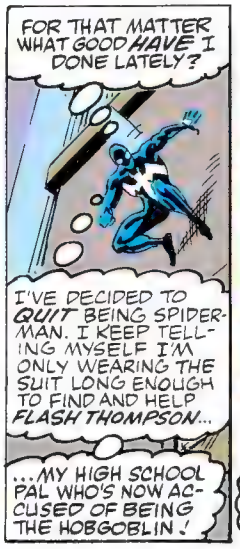

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
SPIDER-MAN
"... AND WHO SHALL STAND AGAINST THEM...?"
NEW YORK CITY AT NIGHT IS THE STUFF GREAT ROMANTIC LEGENDS ARE MADE OF. THE SEDUCTIVE NEON MAGIC THAT ENVELOPES THIS TOWN'S TWILIGHT HOURS DRAWS PEOPLE FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, MATRICULATING THEM ALL INTO THE DAZZLING NON-STOP CELEBRATION.
SO, YOU ASK, WHY WOULD ANYBODY WANT TO SPEND A SPLENDID FALL EVENING CROUCHED HIGH IN THE SHADOWS OF A MUSTY, DOWNTOWN WAREHOUSE?
BEATS THE HECK OUT OF US, FOLKS!
WE'LL GIVE YOU A HINT, THOUGH.
THESE MEN, UNLOADING STOLEN ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT ARE THE BAD GUYS.
AND THIS GUY, GETTING HIS NIFTY BLACK OUTFIT COVERED WITH SOOT AND ASH...
...HAS SPENT THE LAST FOUR HOURS WAITING FOR THEM TO ARRIVE!
ANOTHER EXPLOSIVE SPIDEY-BLOCKBUSTER (AND GREAT ENTERTAINMENT VALUE) PREPARED BY: TOM DEFALCO PLOT & RON FRENZ STORYTELLING
ABLY ASSISTED BY: JIM OWSLEY SCRIPT BRETT BREEDING PENCILS
AND NOT TO MENTION... JOSEF RUBINSTEIN INKS
RICK PARKER LETTERING
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
JIM SALICRUP EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF


SUDDENLY--
CRIPES!! IT'S THE BLUE BOYS-- THAT NEW GANG TRYIN' TO MUSCLE THEIR WAY INTO TOWN!
THAT SO? WELL, THEY MADE A BIG MISTAKE CRASHIN' OUR DROP TONIGHT--
--THEIR LAST!!
HOWDY, FOLKS!
WE'VE COME TO STEAL YOUR STOLEN HIGH-END-AUDIO-VISUAL COMPONENTS...
...AND TO PUT YOU BUMS OUTTA BUSINESS!!
THERE ARE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK, BOYS... MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT--
--YOU AIN'T EVEN IN OUR LEAGUE!


SAVE IT, PAL!
WASTE 'EM!
THIS IS GREAT!!

THIS GANG-WAR THAT'S SUDDENLY FLARED UP IS A NEWS PHOTOG'S DREAM!
GLAD MY TIP PAID OFF-- I'VE BEEN UP HERE FOR HOURS!
THESE SHOTS WILL BE MORE THAN WORTH THE WAIT! GEEZ... WHAT MORE COULD I ASK FOR?


BLOCKS AWAY, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A CERTAIN FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SLINGER HEADS FOR HOME...
WOW-- THE WAY CHRIS KEATING LIT INTO ME BACK AT THE HOSPITAL, * YOU'D THINK THE GUY HAD SOMETHING PERSONAL AGAINST ME!
I GUESS HUMAN SPIDERS AND POLICE CAPTAINS DON'T MIX.
≥YAWN≤
I'M REALLY WASTED! GOING TEN ROUNDS WITH THE MAULER REALLY TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME. AND, FOR WHAT? WHAT DID I REALLY ACCOMPLISH?
* SEE PPTSSM #122--JIM.


FOR THAT MATTER WHAT GOOD HAVE I DONE LATELY?
I'VE DECIDED TO QUIT BEING SPIDER-MAN. I KEEP TELLING MYSELF I'M ONLY WEARING THE SUIT LONG ENOUGH TO FIND AND HELP FLASH THOMPSON...
...MY HIGH SCHOOL PAL WHO'S NOW ACCUSED OF BEING THE HOBGOBLIN!

FLASH BUSTED OUT OF JAIL DAYS AGO AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE. I'M SURE HE'S SCARED AND CONFUSED!
I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM-- HELP HIM SOMEHOW. THEN I HANG UP THE WEBS FOREVER!

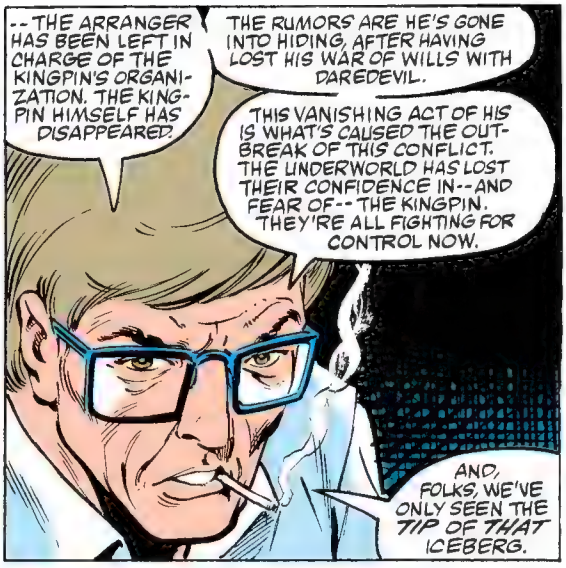
AND, BACK AT THE WAREHOUSE--
THE GUN BATTLE IS TERRIFIC! THEY'RE DESTROYING A LOT OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT, BUT NOBODY'S GETTING SERIOUSLY WASTED!
THAT MEANS A LONGER GUNFIGHT... AND MORE PHOTOS--!
HUH--?
I THOUGHT I HEARD GUNSHOTS!
KRASH!
ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS--KNOCK IT OFF!!
I'M FROM THE ZONING BOARD! YOUR LEASE CLEARLY STATES "NO FIREFIGHTS AFTER 10 PM"!
YOU GUYS ARE IN BIG TROUBLE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! NOW SPIDEY'S GOTTEN INTO THE ACTION!
LOOK AT HIM GO--TAKING THEM ALL ON!
NIKON
Y'KNOW, YOU "BLUE BOYS" OUGHTTA DO THREE THINGS FOR YOURSELVES:
COME UP WITH A BETTER NAME...
... AND BATHE MORE REGULARLY!
BETTER MAKE MY MOVE. THEY'RE DISTRACTED. NOW'S THE TIME.
I'VE GOT A LOT TO DO TONIGHT.
WELL, I'M TICKED-OFF!
I GIVE YOU GUYS PERFECTLY GOOD MATERIAL--
--AND YOU GIVE ME ZIP!
IN MY DAY YOU RAN INTO A WITTIER CLASS OF LOWLIFE THUG!
I MEAN, DOC OCK WAS A SKULL-REEAM--! UH-OH--
SPIDER-SENSE RINGING TO BEAT THE BAND!!

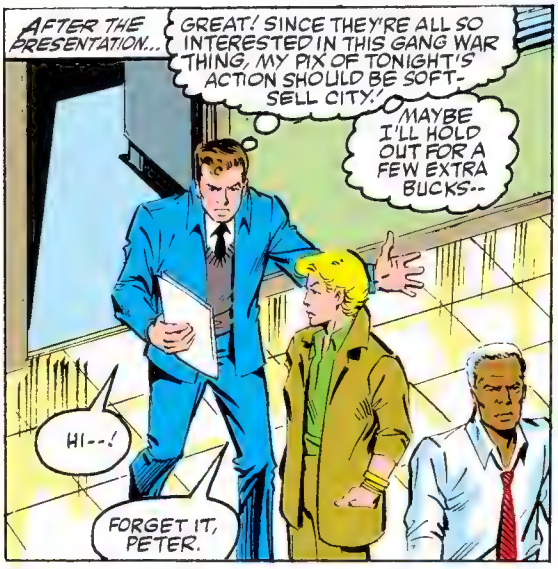
GREETINGS, WEB-SLINGER!
HOW FORTUNATE TO FIND YOU HERE! YOU BRING A SMALL ELEMENT OF PLEASURE TO MY OTHERWISE MUNDANE BUSINESS INTERESTS!
THE HOBGOBLIN!!
--FLASH--?!
IS THAT HIM BENEATH THE MASK--?
WAITASEC--WE GOT THUGS "A" SMUGGLING HOT STEREOS--WE GOT THUGS "B" WITH THE FUNNY MASKS TRYING TO ROB THE SMUGGLERS--
-- AND NOW YOU COME ALONG--?!
THE UNDERWORLD IS AT WAR, ARACHNID!
IT IS MY WISH THAT MY EMPLOYER--THE ROSE--NOT BE DISTURBED BY THIS MAD POWER STRUGGLE.
I'VE COME TO TEACH THESE CRETINS TO FEAR ME! TO SHOW THEM THE LAW OF THIS CITY!
DESTROYING YOU IN THE BARGAIN WILL BE AN ADDED PLEASURE!
HOW NICE.
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME, SPIDER-MAN!
SURE I CAN!
IT'S IN MY CONTRACT!
NÄIVE FOOL! I WASN'T TRYING FOR YOU! MY WRATH WAS DIRECTED AT THOSE FOOLS!
WHAT--?!
I...DUCKED HOBGOBLIN'S BLAST--AND HE HIT THOSE GUYS...
...JUST LIKE SIN-EATER *
* SEE PPTSM #107-110.--JIM

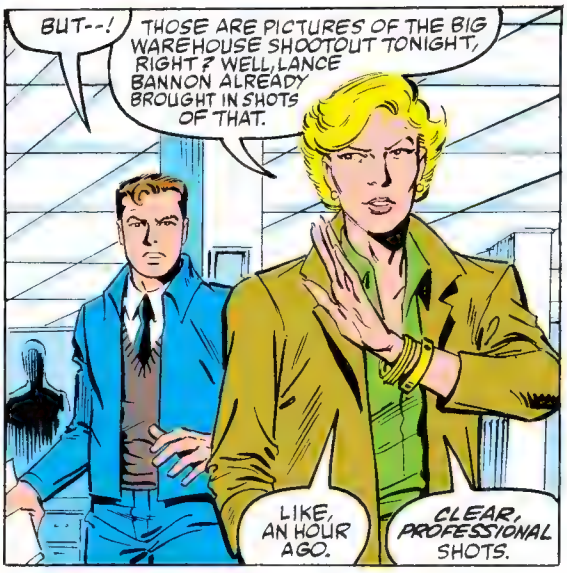
HUMANITARIAN FOOL! THOSE MEN ARE CRIMINALS! THEY LIVE BY A CODE OF VIOLENCE!
IT IS THEIR WAY!
WHAT IS YOUR WAY, SPIDER-MAN?
HAHAHAHAH
COME BACK HERE, YOU GIGGLING JERK! I--
--HAD BETTER DUCK FAST!!
SNIPERS ON THE ADJACENT ROOF--
--I'M WELL WITHIN THEIR SIGHTS!
--THEY MISSED HOBBY, BUT--
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
I HATE BEING SHOT AT.
SHEESH!
HOBGOBLIN'S GONE--THE COPS HAVE ARRIVED--AND I'M LEFT CRAWLING AROUND ON A DIRTY ROOFTOP..
...WONDERING WHY I WENT CRASHING IN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
WHAT WAS I TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!

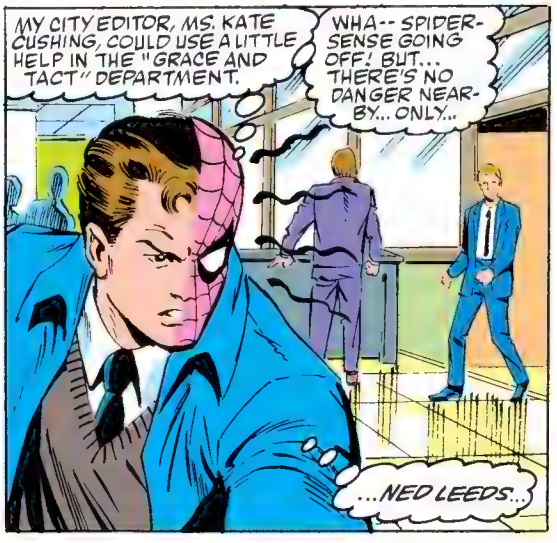
LOOKS LIKE KEATING'S IN ONE OF THOSE CARS! THE MAN FOLLOWS ME LIKE A BAD RASH!
HE MUST BE PSYCHIC!
TOO FRAZZLED TO SLEEP NOW. AND, SINCE I DID MANAGE TO SET UP MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA BEFORE THE FIGHT--
...GUESS I'LL DO WHAT COMES NATURALLY...
...GO HOME FOR A QUICK CHANGE OF CLOTHES, AND THEN RACE DOWN TO MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME--
DAILY BUGLE
IT'S VERY BAD, PEOPLE, AND IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE--
HUH?! HALF THE BUGLE'S STAFF'S HERE--AT NEARLY MIDNIGHT?!
MUST BE SOMETHING HEAVY GOING ON--
THIS GANG WAR'S ONLY STARTING. THESE THINGS USUALLY LAST ONLY A FEW DAYS...
...BUT THEY TAKE A HUGE TOLL IN TERMS OF VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED.
BEN, YOU WANT TO START YOUR PRESENTATION?
THANKS, JONAH.
COUGH
THIS MESS BEGAN AS A PERSONAL FEUD BETWEEN WILSON FISK--THE ALLEGED KINGPIN OF CRIME, AND THIS MAN--DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
DETAILS ARE SKETCHY, BUT WE KNOW KINGPIN WAS NEARLY SUCCESSFUL IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO HAVE DAREDEVIL KILLED.
"KINGPIN'S SUCCESSIVE FAILURES EVENTUALLY DROVE HIM INTO A MAD OBSESSION WITH DAREDEVIL.
"KINGPIN FINALLY SENT A COMPLETELY UNHINGED INDIVIDUAL CODE-NAMED 'NUKE' TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE HIMSELF HAD REPEATEDLY FAILED TO DO.
"THIS NUKE FELLOW DESTROYED SEVERAL SQUARE BLOCKS OF HELL'S KITCHEN IN THE TRYING."
MAN...MY FIGHT WITH FIRELORD DIDN'T CAUSE AS MUCH DESTRUCTION! HOW COULD ANYONE SURVIVE THAT?!
AND ALL THAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS TRYING TO GET BACK HOME FROM APPALACHIA,*
NOT THAT THERE WOULD'VE BEEN MUCH I COULD'VE DONE ANYWAY. I HEAR EVEN THE AVENGERS WERE IN ON THAT.
SO, WHAT HAVE WE GOT, BEN?
* WEB #18--JIM.

WE'VE GOT A BIG MESS, JONAH.
THESE MEN ARE ALL LEADING CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE CITY'S UNDERWORLD SUBSTRUCTURE.
THE ROSE, HAMMERHEAD AND SILVERMANE ALL HEAD POWERFUL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.
THE "BLUE BOYS" ARE A WILD-CARD GROUP. NO ONE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT THEM THEY'VE JUST SHOWN UP AND STARTED THROWING A LOT OF WEIGHT AROUND.
AND, THE ARRANGER--


--THE ARRANGER HAS BEEN LEFT IN CHARGE OF THE KINGPIN'S ORGANIZATION. THE KINGPIN HIMSELF HAS DISAPPEARED.
THE RUMORS ARE HE'S GONE INTO HIDING, AFTER HAVING LOST HIS WAR OF WILLS WITH DAREDEVIL.
THIS VANISHING ACT OF HIS IS WHAT'S CAUSED THE OUTBREAK OF THIS CONFLICT. THE UNDERWORLD HAS LOST THEIR CONFIDENCE IN--AND FEAR OF--THE KINGPIN. THEY'RE ALL FIGHTING FOR CONTROL NOW.
AND, FOLKS, WE'VE ONLY SEEN THE TIP OF THAT ICEBERG.

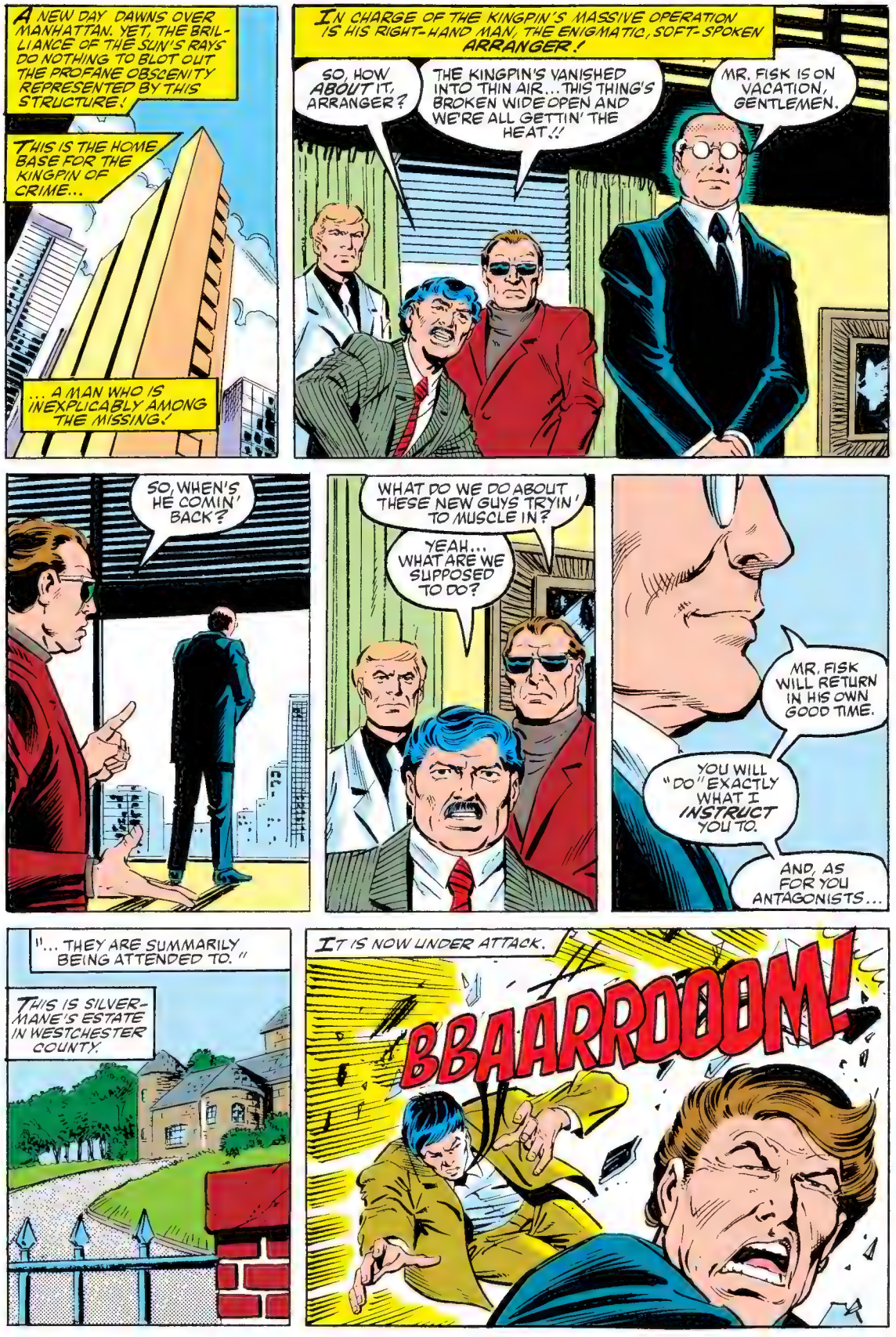

AFTER THE PRESENTATION...
GREAT! SINCE THEY'RE ALL SO INTERESTED IN THIS GANG WAR THING, MY PIX OF TONIGHT'S ACTION SHOULD BE SOFT-SELL CITY!
MAYBE I'LL HOLD OUT FOR A FEW EXTRA BUCKS--
HI--!
FORGET IT, PETER.

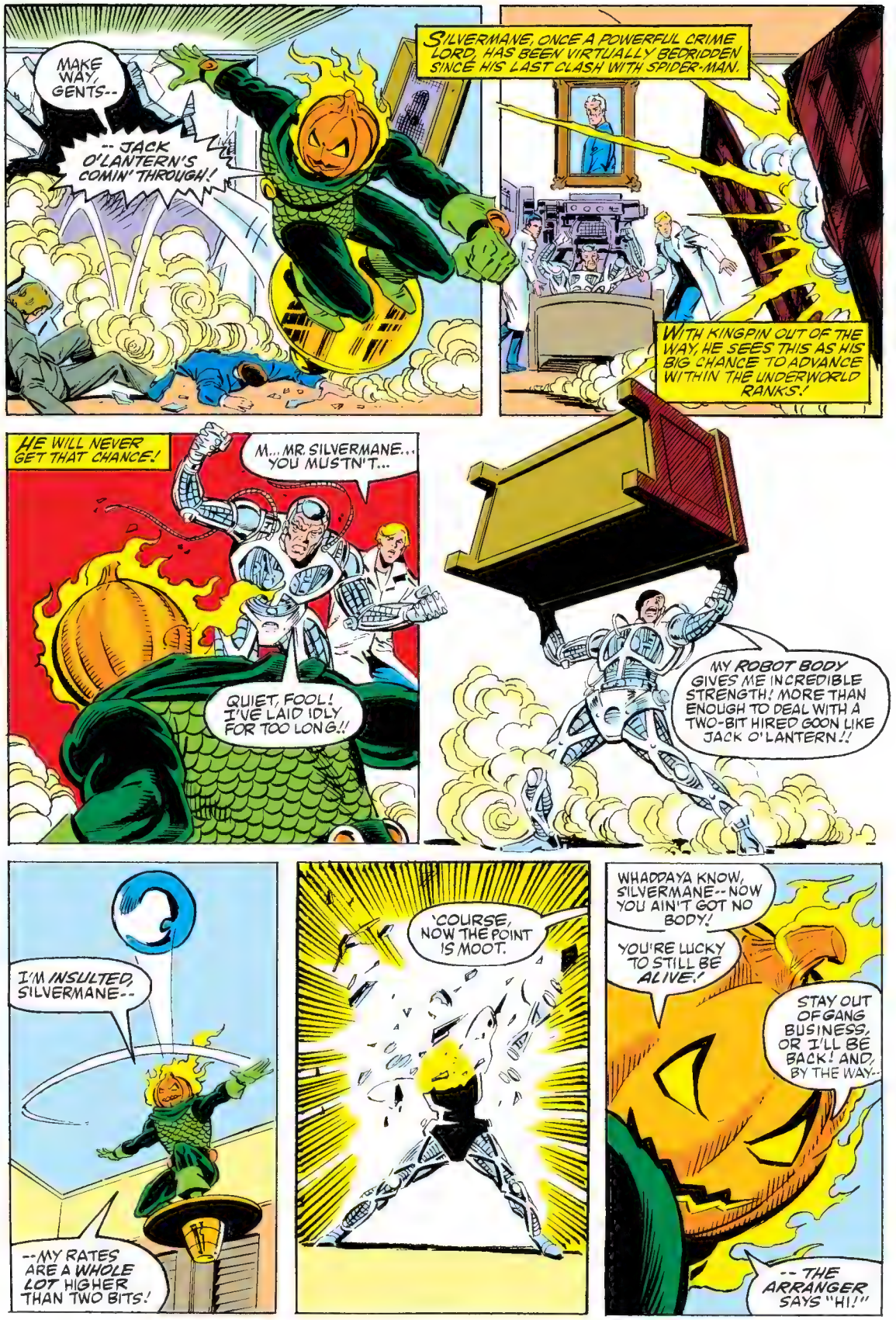

BUT--!
THOSE ARE PICTURES OF THE BIG WAREHOUSE SHOOTOUT TONIGHT, RIGHT? WELL, LANCE BANNON ALREADY BROUGHT IN SHOTS OF THAT.
LIKE, AN HOUR AGO.
CLEAR, PROFESSIONAL SHOTS.


MY CITY EDITOR, MS. KATE CUSHING, COULD USE A LITTLE HELP IN THE "GRACE AND TACT" DEPARTMENT.
WHA-- SPIDER-SENSE GOING OFF! BUT... THERE'S NO DANGER NEARBY... ONLY..
...NED LEEDS...

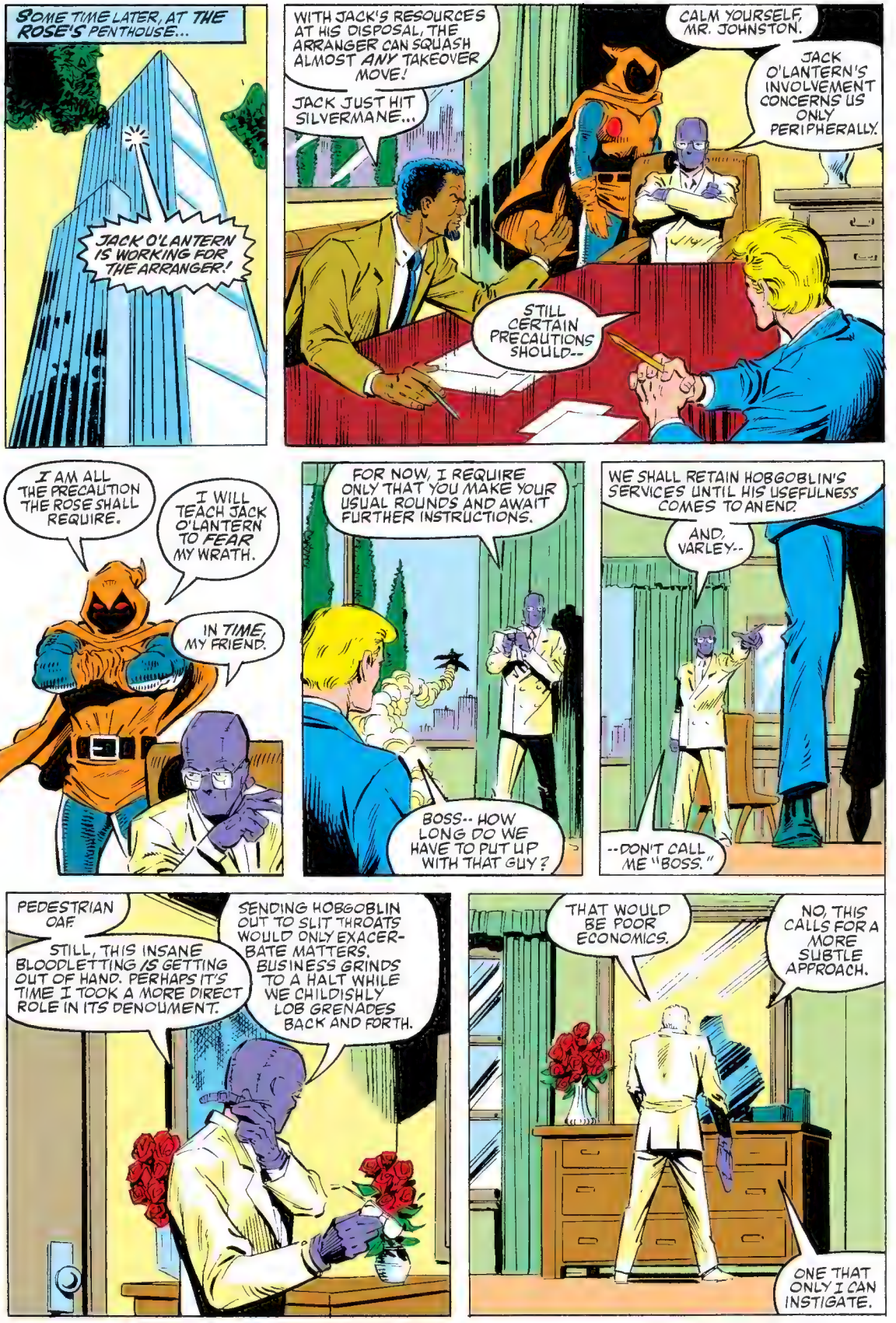
BETTY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?!
I COULDN'T SLEEP... I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND THIS GANG WAR...
WONDER WHAT IT IS ABOUT THIS GUY THAT MAKES ME SO UNEASY?

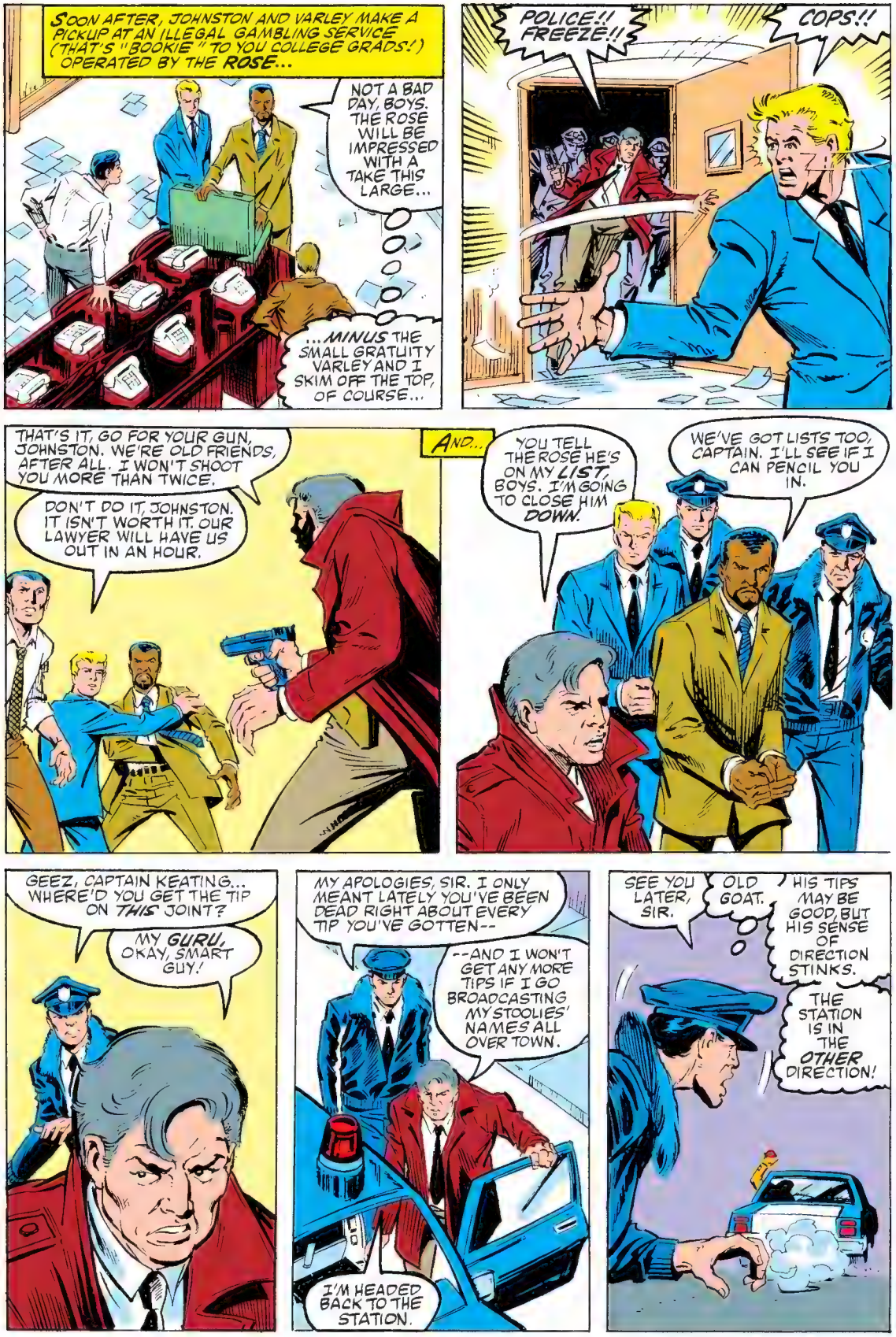
I'M STILL YOUR WIFE, YOU KNOW!
MY WIFE, BUT CLOSE FRIEND AND PARAMOUR TO FLASH THOMPSON--WHO IS ALSO KNOWN AS--
...THE HOBGOBLIN!
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME, BETTY DARLING--OR ABOUT HIM?!
WELL?!?
N... NED.. YOU'RE HURTING ME...
YOU'RE LATE.
YOU MISSED THE BRIEFING.
THE IMPORTANT BRIEFING.
LOOK, ROBBIE...
IN MY OFFICE.
AND I JUST HUNG AROUND AND WATCHED THAT WHOLE LITTLE EPISODE. WHAT A CLASS ACT I AM.
OH, PETER, I... I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
NED'S BECOME SO STRANGE... SO DISTANT...
THERE'S A HOSTILITY... AN EVIL ABOUT HIM.
SOME-THING I JUST CAN'T EXPLAIN!

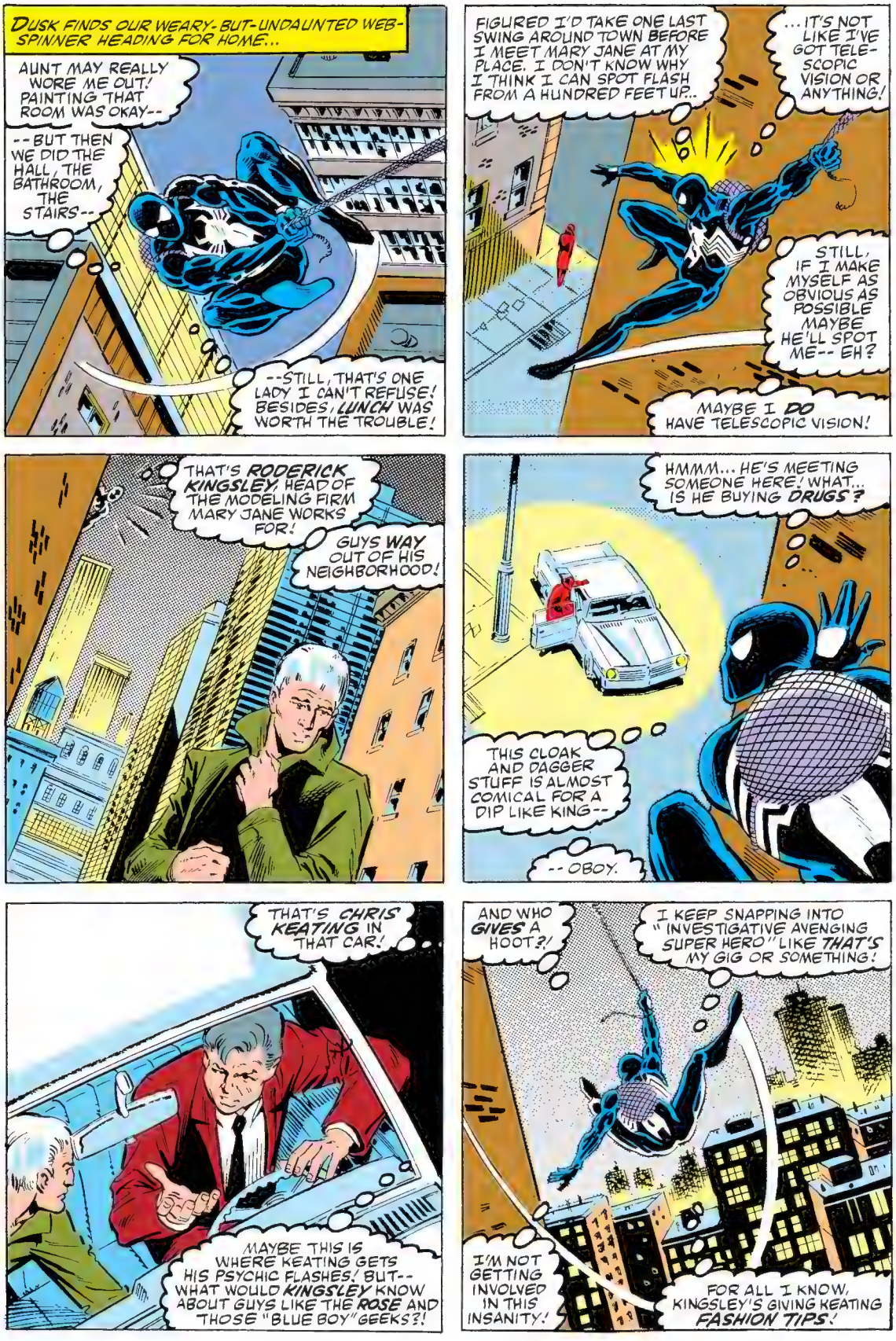

A NEW DAY DAWNS OVER MANHATTAN. YET, THE BRILLIANCE OF THE SUN'S RAYS DO NOTHING TO BLOT OUT THE PROFANE OBSCENITY REPRESENTED BY THIS STRUCTURE!
THIS IS THE HOME BASE FOR THE KINGPIN OF CRIME...
... A MAN WHO IS INEXPLICABLY AMONG THE MISSING!
IN CHARGE OF THE KINGPIN'S MASSIVE OPERATION IS HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, THE ENIGMATIC, SOFT-SPOKEN ARRANGER!
SO, HOW ABOUT IT, ARRANGER?
THE KINGPIN'S VANISHED INTO THIN AIR... THIS THING'S BROKEN WIDE OPEN AND WE'RE ALL GETTIN' THE HEAT!!
MR. FISK IS ON VACATION, GENTLEMEN.
SO, WHEN'S HE COMIN' BACK?
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THESE NEW GUYS TRYIN' TO MUSCLE IN?
YEAH... WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
MR. FISK WILL RETURN IN HIS OWN GOOD TIME.
YOU WILL "DO" EXACTLY WHAT I INSTRUCT YOU TO.
AND, AS FOR YOU ANTAGONISTS...
"... THEY ARE SUMMARILY BEING ATTENDED TO."
THIS IS SILVERMANE'S ESTATE IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY.
IT IS NOW UNDER ATTACK.
BBAARROOOM!

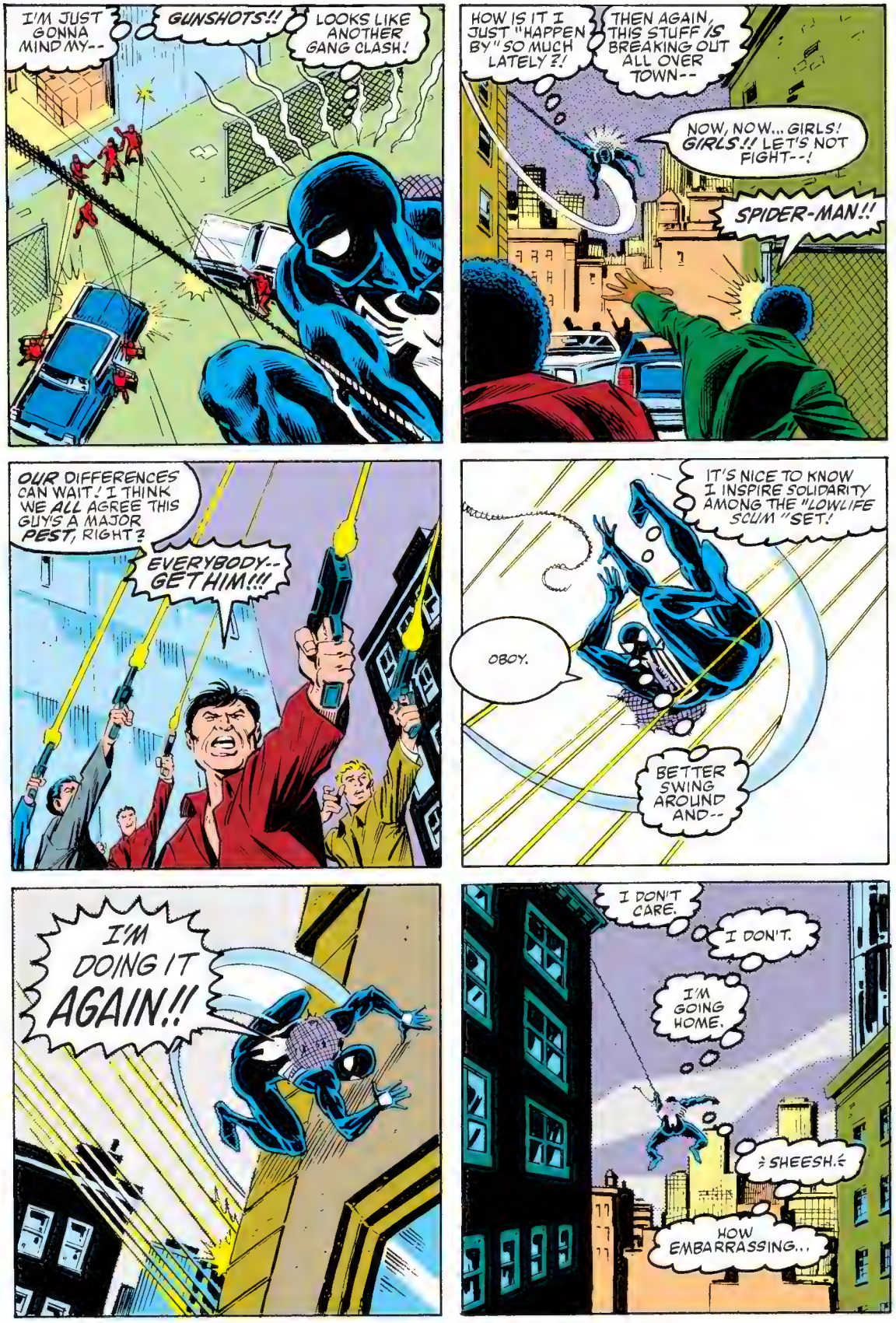

MAKE WAY, GENTS--
-- JACK O'LANTERN'S COMIN' THROUGH!
SILVERMANE, ONCE A POWERFUL CRIME LORD, HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY BEDRIDDEN SINCE HIS LAST CLASH WITH SPIDER-MAN.
WITH KINGPIN OUT OF THE WAY, HE SEES THIS AS HIS BIG CHANCE TO ADVANCE WITHIN THE UNDERWORLD RANKS!
HE WILL NEVER GET THAT CHANCE!
M... MR. SILVERMANE... YOU MUSTN'T...
QUIET, FOOL! I'VE LAID IDLY FOR TOO LONG!!
MY ROBOT BODY GIVES ME INCREDIBLE STRENGTH! MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH A TWO-BIT HIRED GOON LIKE JACK O'LANTERN!!
I'M INSULTED, SILVERMANE--
--MY RATES ARE A WHOLE LOT HIGHER THAN TWO BITS!
'COURSE, NOW THE POINT IS MOOT.
WHADDAYA KNOW, SILVERMANE--NOW YOU AIN'T GOT NO BODY!
YOU'RE LUCKY TO STILL BE ALIVE!
STAY OUT OF GANG BUSINESS, OR I'LL BE BACK! AND, BY THE WAY--
-- THE ARRANGER SAYS "HI!"

MEANWHILE, IN FOREST HILLS, QUEENS...
GOTTA STEER CLEAR OF THIS GANG WAR BUSINESS. IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, ANYWAY.
LIKE THE HOBGOBLIN SAID, IT'S THE WAY THEY LIVE.
AND "THEY" CAN HAVE IT. LET 'EM SHOOT EACH OTHER IF THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT.
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
NO SIGN OF FLASH--AND IF HE IS THE HOBGOBLIN--THEN I'VE BEEN PLAYED FOR A FOOL! NOT A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME, AFTER ALL... WHO APPOINTED ME TO BE EVERYONE'S GUARDIAN ANGEL, ANYWAY? TO HECK WITH THAT. OOPS--GOTTA PUT ON MY "HAPPY PETE" FACE FOR AUNT MAY!
SHE CAN READ ME LIKE A BOOK, AND I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO UPSET HER.
SHE'S GOT PROBLEMS OF HER OWN. TWO OF HER BOARDERS MOVED OUT LAST WEEK.
HIYA, MR. CHEKOV!
UPSTAIRS...
PETER!
WHY--I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TODAY--
NEITHER DID I! I MEAN, I DECIDED TO TAKE A LITTLE STROLL AROUND CHELSEA AND, GEE, GUESS I GOT A BIT CARRIED AWAY!
CROSSING THE EAST RIVER WASN'T EASY!
WHAT'S UP?
WE'RE JUST SPRUCING THE HOUSE UP A BIT, PETER. WE NEED TWO MORE BOARDERS TO TAKE SOPHIE AND MARTHA'S ROOM.
WITHOUT THEIR INCOME, IT'S EVEN TOUGHER TO MAKE ENDS MEET.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO ATTRACT NEW PEOPLE, YOU SHOULD HANG A LARGER-THAN-LIFE PICTURE OF YOURSELF OUTSIDE.
YOU'D PACK 'EM IN IN DROVES!
OH, PETER!
HERE--HUSH-UP AND PAINT!

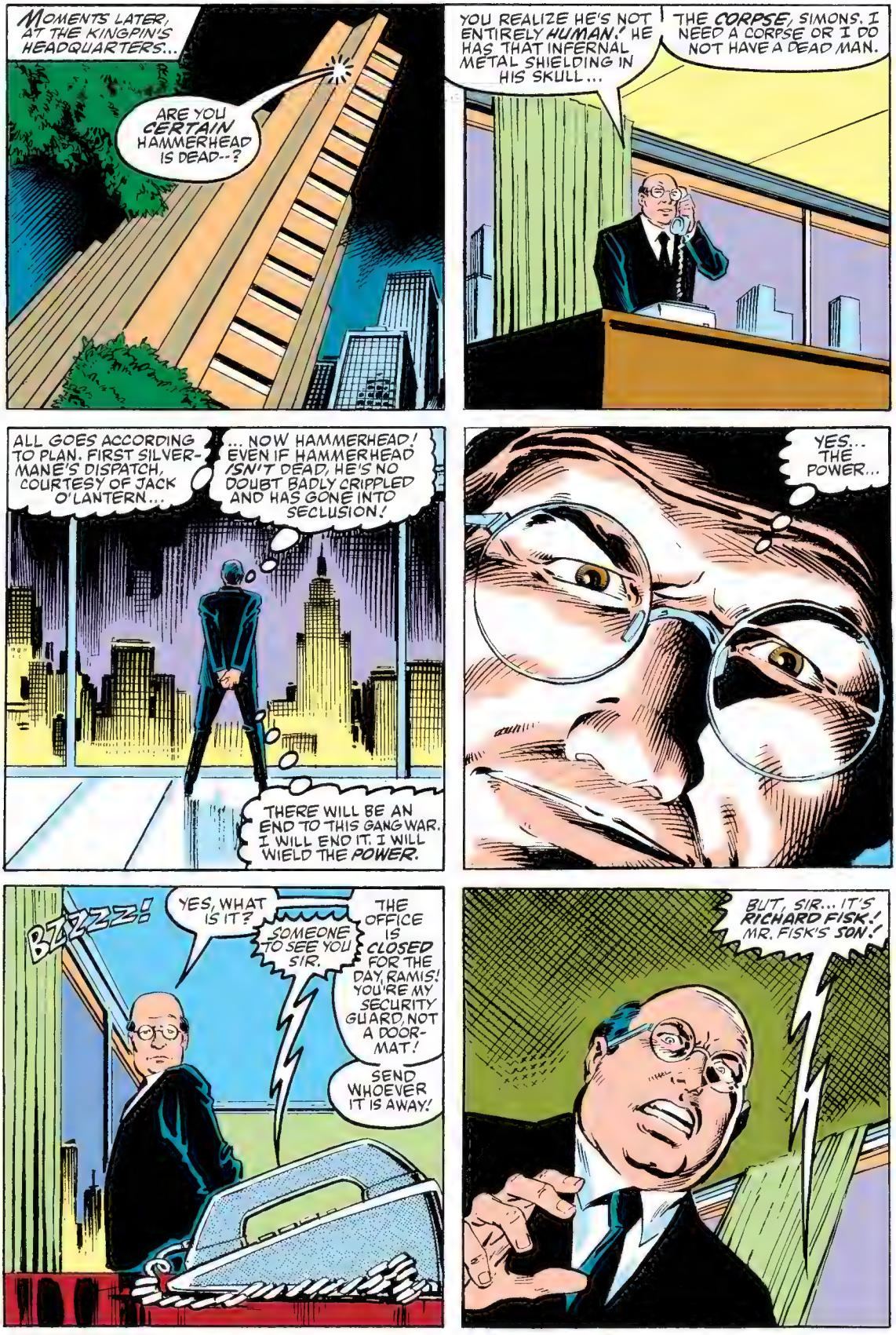

SOME TIME LATER, AT THE ROSE'S PENTHOUSE...
JACK O'LANTERN IS WORKING FOR THE ARRANGER!
WITH JACK'S RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL, THE ARRANGER CAN SQUASH ALMOST ANY TAKEOVER MOVE!
JACK JUST HIT SILVERMANE...
CALM YOURSELF, MR. JOHNSTON.
JACK O'LANTERN'S INVOLVEMENT CONCERNS US ONLY PERIPHERALLY.
STILL CERTAIN PRECAUTIONS SHOULD--
I AM ALL THE PRECAUTION THE ROSE SHALL REQUIRE.
I WILL TEACH JACK O'LANTERN TO FEAR MY WRATH.
IN TIME, MY FRIEND.
FOR NOW, I REQUIRE ONLY THAT YOU MAKE YOUR USUAL ROUNDS AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
BOSS-- HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THAT GUY?
WE SHALL RETAIN HOBGOBLIN'S SERVICES UNTIL HIS USEFULNESS COMES TO AN END.
AND, VARLEY--
--DON'T CALL ME "BOSS."
PEDESTRIAN OAF.
STILL, THIS INSANE BLOODLETTING IS GETTING OUT OF HAND. PERHAPS IT'S TIME I TOOK A MORE DIRECT ROLE IN ITS DENOUMENT.
SENDING HOBGOBLIN OUT TO SLIT THROATS WOULD ONLY EXACERBATE MATTERS. BUSINESS GRINDS TO A HALT WHILE WE CHILDISHLY LOB GRENADES BACK AND FORTH.
THAT WOULD BE POOR ECONOMICS.
NO, THIS CALLS FOR A MORE SUBTLE APPROACH.
ONE THAT ONLY I CAN INSTIGATE.


SOON AFTER, JOHNSTON AND VARLEY MAKE A PICKUP AT AN ILLEGAL GAMBLING SERVICE (THAT'S "BOOKIE" TO YOU COLLEGE GRADS!) OPERATED BY THE ROSE...
NOT A BAD DAY, BOYS. THE ROSE WILL BE IMPRESSED WITH A TAKE THIS LARGE...
...MINUS THE SMALL GRATUITY VARLEY AND I SKIM OFF THE TOP, OF COURSE...
POLICE!! FREEZE!!
COPS!!
THAT'S IT, GO FOR YOUR GUN, JOHNSTON. WE'RE OLD FRIENDS, AFTER ALL. I WON'T SHOOT YOU MORE THAN TWICE.
DON'T DO IT, JOHNSTON. IT ISN'T WORTH IT. OUR LAWYER WILL HAVE US OUT IN AN HOUR.
AND...
YOU TELL THE ROSE HE'S ON MY LIST, BOYS. I'M GOING TO CLOSE HIM DOWN.
WE'VE GOT LISTS TOO, CAPTAIN. I'LL SEE IF I CAN PENCIL YOU IN.
GEEZ, CAPTAIN KEATING... WHERE'D YOU GET THE TIP ON THIS JOINT?
MY GURU, OKAY, SMART GUY!
MY APOLOGIES, SIR. I ONLY MEANT LATELY YOU'VE BEEN DEAD RIGHT ABOUT EVERY TIP YOU'VE GOTTEN--
--AND I WON'T GET ANY MORE TIPS IF I GO BROADCASTING MY STOOLIES' NAMES ALL OVER TOWN.
I'M HEADED BACK TO THE STATION.
SEE YOU LATER, SIR.
OLD GOAT.
HIS TIPS MAY BE GOOD, BUT HIS SENSE OF DIRECTION STINKS.
THE STATION IS IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!


DUSK FINDS OUR WEARY-BUT-UNDAUNTED WEB-SPINNER HEADING FOR HOME...
AUNT MAY REALLY WORE ME OUT! PAINTING THAT ROOM WAS OKAY--
--BUT THEN WE DID THE HALL, THE BATHROOM, THE STAIRS--
--STILL, THAT'S ONE LADY I CAN'T REFUSE! BESIDES, LUNCH WAS WORTH THE TROUBLE!
FIGURED I'D TAKE ONE LAST SWING AROUND TOWN BEFORE I MEET MARY JANE AT MY PLACE. I DON'T KNOW WHY I THINK I CAN SPOT FLASH FROM A HUNDRED FEET UP..
...IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT TELE-SCOPIC VISION OR ANYTHING!
STILL, IF I MAKE MYSELF AS OBVIOUS AS POSSIBLE MAYBE HE'LL SPOT ME-- EH?
MAYBE I DO HAVE TELESCOPIC VISION!
THAT'S RODERICK KINGSLEY, HEAD OF THE MODELING FIRM MARY JANE WORKS FOR!
GUYS WAY OUT OF HIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
HMMM... HE'S MEETING SOMEONE HERE! WHAT... IS HE BUYING DRUGS?
THIS CLOAK AND DAGGER STUFF IS ALMOST COMICAL FOR A DIP LIKE KING--
--OBOY.
THAT'S CHRIS KEATING IN THAT CAR!
MAYBE THIS IS WHERE KEATING GETS HIS PSYCHIC FLASHES! BUT-- WHAT WOULD KINGSLEY KNOW ABOUT GUYS LIKE THE ROSE AND THOSE "BLUE BOY" GEEKS?!
AND WHO GIVES A HOOT?!
I KEEP SNAPPING INTO "INVESTIGATIVE AVENGING SUPER HERO" LIKE THAT'S MY GIG OR SOMETHING!
I'M NOT GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS INSANITY!
FOR ALL I KNOW, KINGSLEY'S GIVING KEATING FASHION TIPS!


I'M JUST GONNA MIND MY--
GUNSHOTS!!
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER GANG CLASH!
HOW IS IT I JUST "HAPPEN BY" SO MUCH LATELY?!
THEN AGAIN, THIS STUFF IS BREAKING OUT ALL OVER TOWN--
NOW, NOW... GIRLS! GIRLS!! LET'S NOT FIGHT--!
SPIDER-MAN!!
OUR DIFFERENCES CAN WAIT! I THINK WE ALL AGREE THIS GUY'S A MAJOR PEST, RIGHT?
EVERYBODY-- GET HIM!!!
IT'S NICE TO KNOW I INSPIRE SOLIDARITY AMONG THE "LOWLIFE SCUM" SET!
OBOY.
BETTER SWING AROUND AND--
I'M DOING IT AGAIN!!
I DON'T CARE.
I DON'T.
I'M GOING HOME.
SHEESH.
HOW EMBARRASSING...

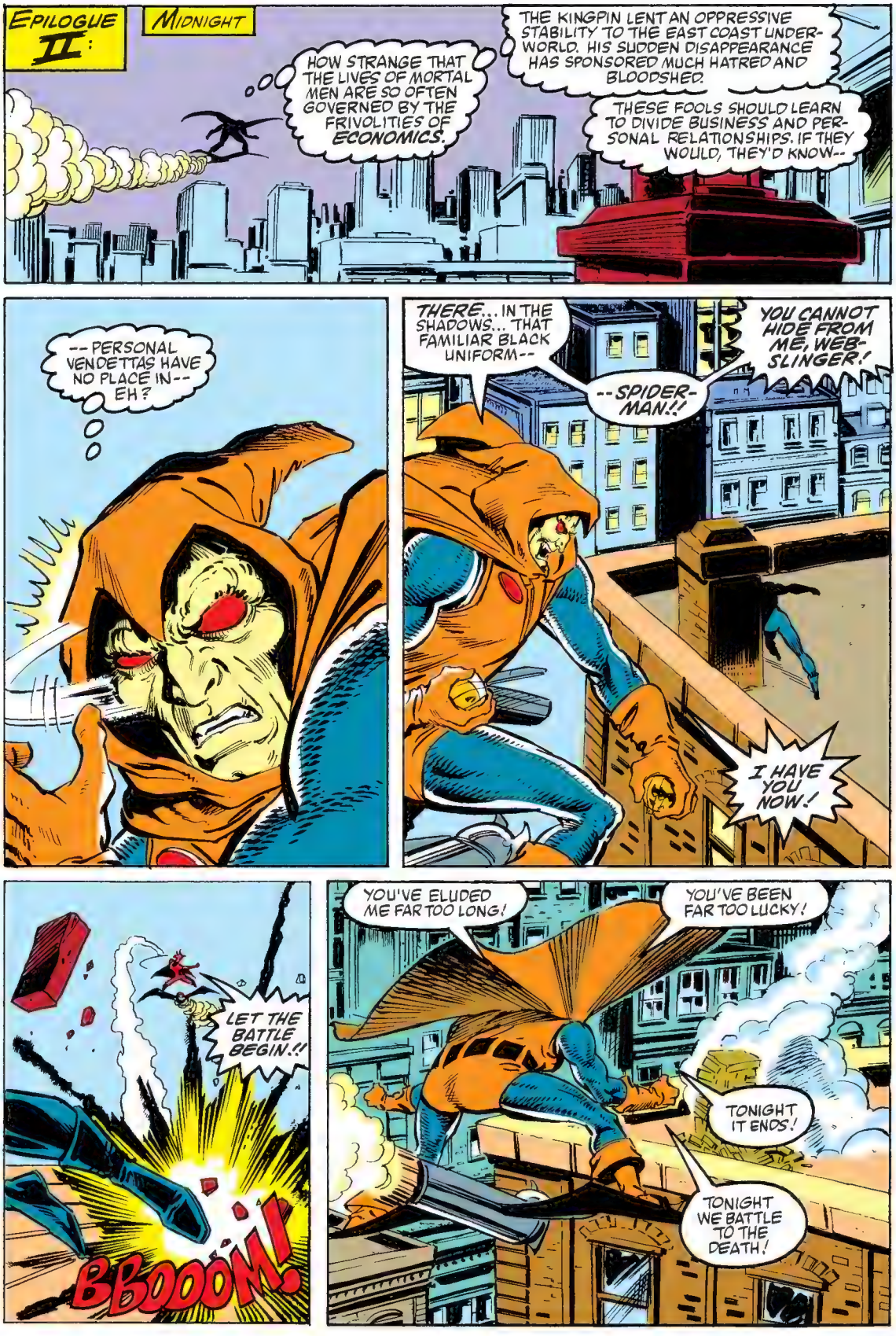
STILL LATER, A POSH, MIDTOWN RESTAURANT IS ABOUT TO BE VISITED BY ONE OF ITS MORE REGULAR PATRONS...
...THE INFAMOUS NEW YORK GANG-LEADER KNOWN ONLY AS HAMMERHEAD!
ALL RIGHT, GIRLS--WITH THE KINGPIN RUNNIN' AWAY WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS, THAT PUTS ME IN THE BEST POSITION TO TAKE OVER THIS TOWN'S MOBS!
THAT MEANS WE GET TO CELEBRATE BIG!!
SKY'S THE LIMIT, DOLLS!
-- BUT OF COURSE, YOUR USUAL TABLE AWAITS YOU, M'SIEUR SMITH.
THANKS, FRENCHY.
BREAK OPEN THE BUBBLY, JACQUES! AND BRING THE GOOD STUFF!
I WANNA SEE LOTSA DUST ON THE BOTTLE!
TONIGHT'S REAL SPECIAL, FOLKS. I'M GONNA MAKE MY MOVE SOONER THAN ANYONE SUSPECTS--
BLAMM!


MOMENTS LATER, AT THE KINGPIN'S HEADQUARTERS...
ARE YOU CERTAIN HAMMERHEAD IS DEAD--?
YOU REALIZE HE'S NOT ENTIRELY HUMAN! HE HAS THAT INFERNAL METAL SHIELDING IN HIS SKULL...
THE CORPSE, SIMONS. I NEED A CORPSE OR I DO NOT HAVE A DEAD MAN.
ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN. FIRST SILVER-MANE'S DISPATCH, COURTESY OF JACK O'LANTERN...
... NOW HAMMERHEAD! EVEN IF HAMMERHEAD ISN'T DEAD, HE'S NO DOUBT BADLY CRIPPLED AND HAS GONE INTO SECLUSION!
THERE WILL BE AN END TO THIS GANG WAR. I WILL END IT. I WILL WIELD THE POWER.
YES... THE POWER...
BZZZZ!
YES, WHAT IS IT?
SOMEONE TO SEE YOU SIR.
THE OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR THE DAY, RAMIS! YOU'RE MY SECURITY GUARD, NOT A DOOR-MAT!
SEND WHOEVER IT IS AWAY!
BUT, SIR... IT'S RICHARD FISK! MR. FISK'S SON!

COUPLE NUMBER ONE... YOU HAVE THIRTY-FIVE POINTS! TWENTY-FIVE WILL GIVE YOU SIXTY POINTS!
ANSWER THIS CORRECTLY AND YOU'LL BE OUR GRANNND PRIZE WINERRRRS TO-DAAYYYY!
FRED, DID YOUR WIFE PREDICT YOU'D SAY YOU HAVE MORE ARGYLE SOCKS OR ORANGE SOCKS...?
THIS YOUNG LADY'S NAME IS MARY JANE. SHE HAS A DATE WITH PETER PARKER TONIGHT!
GUESS WHO'S LATE?
ER... AH... WELL, BOB--
KLICKK!
THE BATHROOM SKYLIGHT-- HE'S HOME! THANK HEAVEN--!
HI, MJ. SORRY I'M LATE.
NO SWEAT, TIGER. YOUR MAILMAN KEPT ME COMPANY WHILE I WAS WAITING!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW...
...WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL BULLETIN...
...THAT I WAS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU PUT ON THAT SILLY COSTUME AND SWING AROUND FROM THE TOPS OF SKY-SCRAPERS ON THIN STRANDS OF NOTHING...
...BUT, NOW WITH ALL THAT SHOOTING GOING ON...
NO SIGN OF FLASH...
...I HOPE...
I'LL GRAB A SHOWER AND WE CAN ROLL.
NO CHANCE, TIGER.
WE'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE TONIGHT.
I'M GOING TO DAZZLE YOU WITH MY MEATLOAF.
BUT-- BUT--
...AN UPDATE ON TONIGHT'S BOMBING AT A MIDTOWN RESTAURANT...
--I HATE IT, HERE! MARY JANE REDECORATED AFTER THE FIRE,* BUT IT'S...WELL... WEIRD-LOOKING. I NEED A GOOD SPOOL OF CABLE AND A DIME-STORE INDIAN...
*SEE WEB #11--JIM.
...THE DEATH TOLL STANDS AT FIVE WITH DOZENS SERIOUSLY INJURED...

WHAT?!
...DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE GANG WAR THAT HAS ERRUPTED WITHIN THE ORGANIZED CRIME SUBSTRUCTURE!
THE TARGET--A REPUTED MOBSTER KNOWN ONLY AS "HAMMERHEAD"--ESCAPED DEATH...
NO.
...THOUGH DOZENS OF RESTAURANT PATRONS WERE BADLY INJURED!
HAMMERHEAD'S ENTOURAGE DID NOT SURVIVE THE BLAST...
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.
...COUNTLESS OTHERS WERE TREATED FOR SHOCK... A PASSING AUTO SWERVED OUT OF CONTROL AND PLOWED INTO A STOREFRONT WINDOW...
IT'S THE WAY THEY LIVE.
THEIR CODE OF VIOLENCE.
I'VE GOT TO STAY OUT OF IT.
I'VE... I...
I HAVE GREAT POWER.
AND, WITH IT, A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!
THIS WAR STOPS NOW.
Y'KNOW, THEN THERE'S SLOPPY JOES! WHAP THE GROUND BEEF IN THERE, SLOSH IN SOME GOOP AND OFF WE GO! WHAT SAY, PETE?
PETE--?
PETER...

EPILOGUE I:
BETTY BRANT LEEDS HAS BEEN WANDERING THE CITY STREETS FOR HOURS. SHE'D HOPED THE NIGHT AIR WOULD CLEAR HER HEAD...
...IT HASN'T.
HOW ODD... THE FOYER DOOR IS OPEN!
NOW ANYONE COULD SIMPLY WANDER IN!
WELL, THAT'S THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES. WITH NED SO ANGRY WITH ME... AND FLASH AMONG THE MISSING--
--I'M SO LOST...
MAYBE I'LL WRITE WRITE MOM A LETTER...
WHAA-AAT?!
SSSSSHH!
FLASH!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!!
YOU KNOW IT, BETTS.
AND, WITH YOUR HELP, I'M GONNA BOUNCE BACK AND CLEAR MY NAME!
NO MORE HIDING FOR FLASH THOMPSON, LADY.
FROM NOW ON, IT'S YOU AND ME AGAINST THE WORLD!


EPILOGUE II:
MIDNIGHT
HOW STRANGE THAT THE LIVES OF MORTAL MEN ARE SO OFTEN GOVERNED BY THE FRIVOLITIES OF ECONOMICS.
THE KINGPIN LENT AN OPPRESSIVE STABILITY TO THE EAST COAST UNDERWORLD. HIS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE HAS SPONSORED MUCH HATRED AND BLOODSHED.
THESE FOOLS SHOULD LEARN TO DIVIDE BUSINESS AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. IF THEY WOULD, THEY'D KNOW--
-- PERSONAL VENDETTAS HAVE NO PLACE IN-- EH?
THERE... IN THE SHADOWS... THAT FAMILIAR BLACK UNIFORM--
--SPIDER-MAN!!
YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM ME, WEB-SLINGER!
I HAVE YOU NOW!
LET THE BATTLE BEGIN.!!
BBOOOM!
YOU'VE ELUDED ME FAR TOO LONG!
YOU'VE BEEN FAR TOO LUCKY!
TONIGHT IT ENDS!
TONIGHT WE BATTLE TO THE DEATH!

WAIT-- THE SMOKE IS CLEARING... IT... IT'S...
BBBBRRRUTTTAAATATAT!
THE WINDS OF WAR CALL TO HIM.
THE WAR OF CRIMINALS.
HE HAS SWORN HIS LIFE TO DEALING DEATH TO SUCH VERMIN.
IT IS A VOW HE INTENDS TO KEEP.

NEXT: "...ALONG CAME A PUNISHER!

MARVEL
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
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TM
75¢ US
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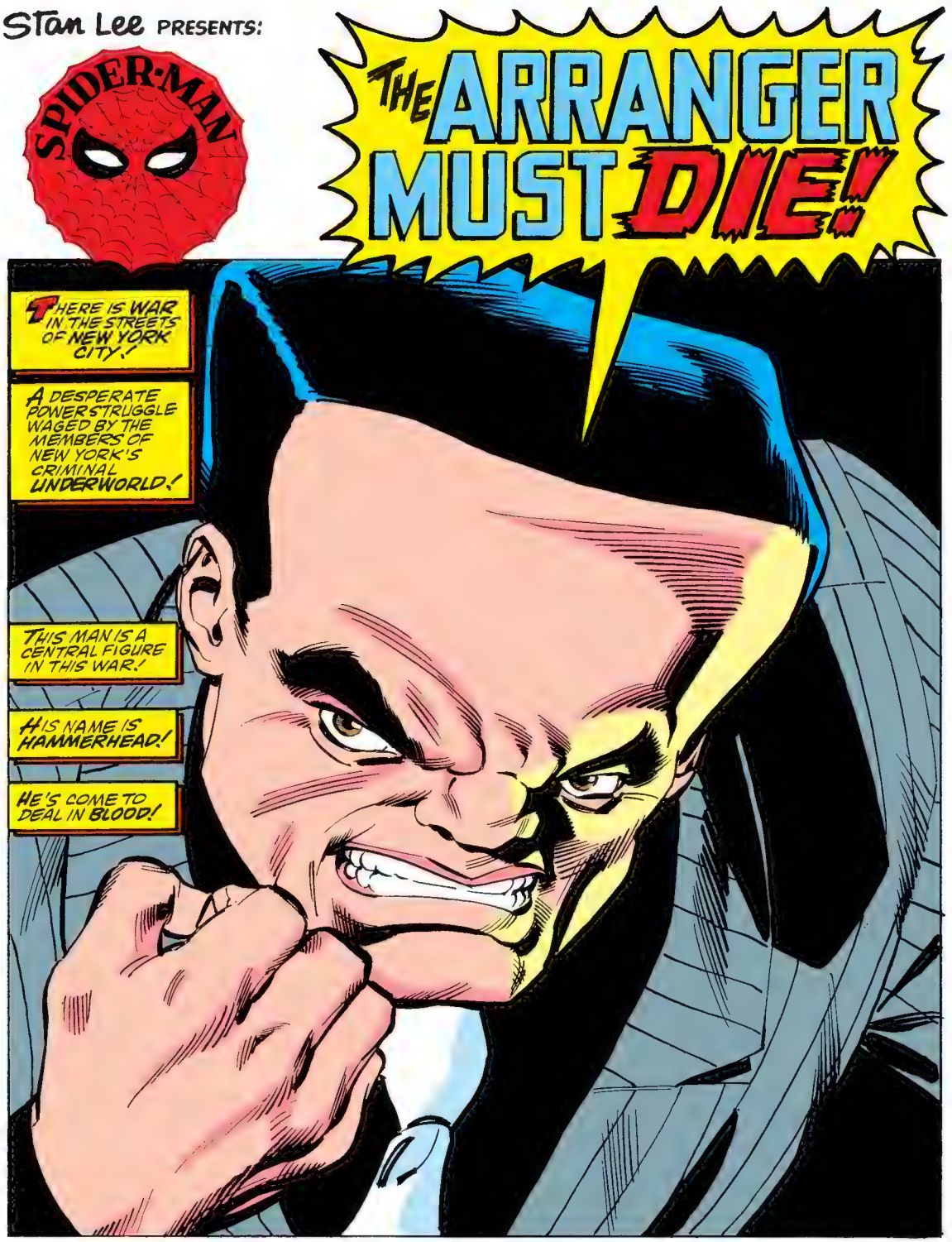
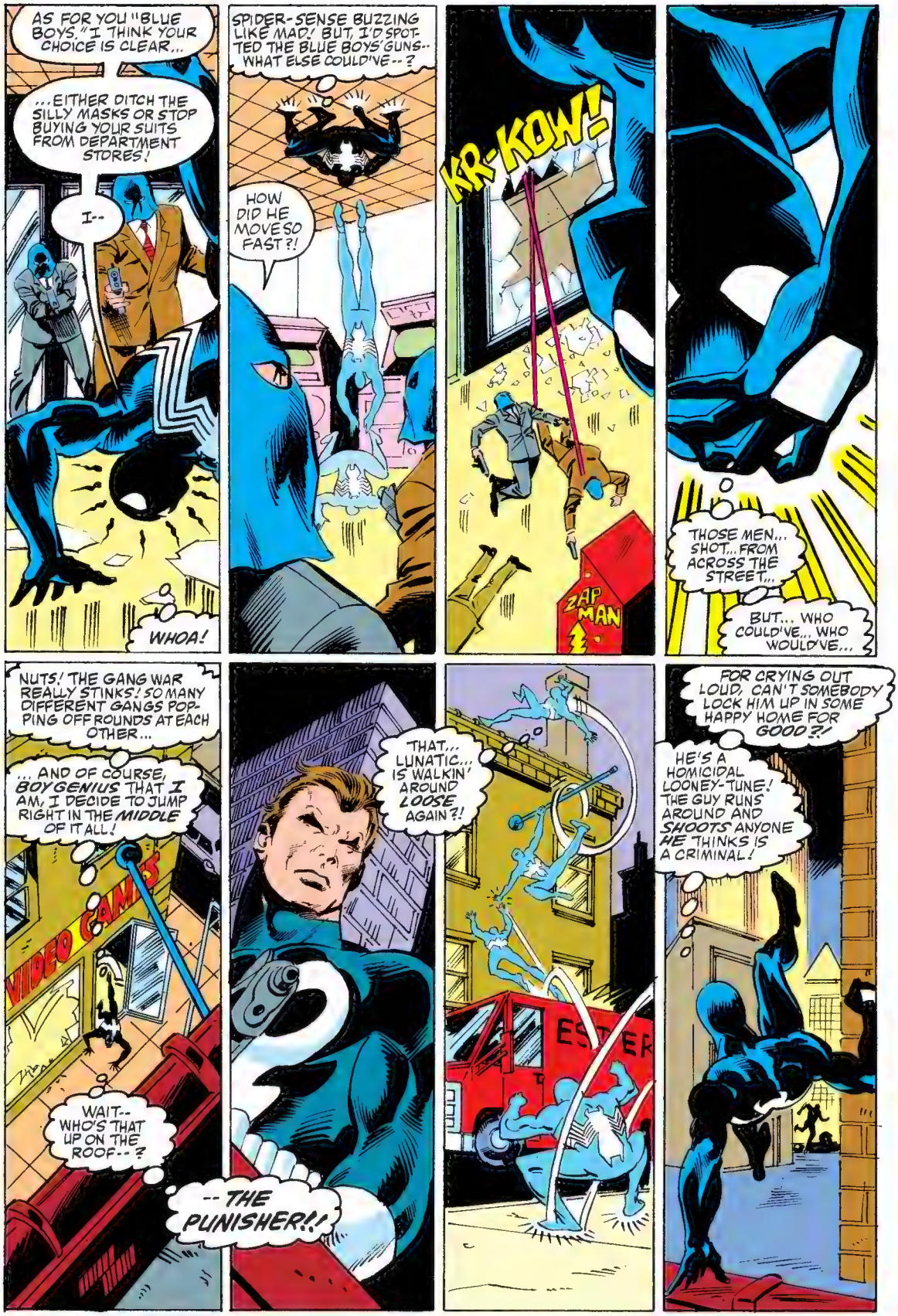
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
GANG WAR
PART TWO
THE PUNISHER GETS INVOLVED!
ZECK + McLEOD


Stan Lee PRESENTS:
SPIDER-MAN
THE ARRANGER MUST DIE!
There is war in the streets of New York City!
A desperate power struggle waged by the members of New York's criminal underworld!
This man is a central figure in this war!
His name is Hammerhead!
He's come to deal in blood!
TOM DeFALCO PLOT
JIM OWSLEY SCRIPT
ALAN KUPPERBERG PENCILS
JIM FERN INKS
RICK PARKER LETTERS
BOB SHAREN COLORS
JIM SALICRUP EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU'RE THE ROSE, LEADER OF YOUR OWN CRIME SYNDICATE AND LONG-TIME PAIN-IN-THE NECK TO THE KINGPIN!
THE KINGPIN, WHOM, WE ALL KNOW, TOOK A POWDER SOME WEEKS AGO, TRIGGERIN' THIS WAR FOR CONTROL OF THIS BERG'S ACTION!
WAY I SEE IT, PAL, WE GOT SOME BUSINESS PROSPECTS HERE!
I AGREED TO SEE YOU, HAMMERHEAD, OUT OF RESPECT TO YOU AS A FELLOW BUSINESSMAN. OUR VARIOUS INTERESTS HAVEN'T CONFLICTED BEFORE, AND I DON'T SEE THEM DOING SO IN THE FUTURE...
...DESPITE THE OBVIOUS COMPLICATIONS BROUGHT ON BY YOUR WAR!
IT AIN'T JUST MY WAR, PAL! JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE SITTIN' IT OUT DON'T MAKE THIS MESS MY RESPONSIBILITY!
NO, PALLY, AS LONG AS THIS WAR CONTINUES, WE'RE ALL IN DANGER! THERE'S LEAD FLYIN' ALL OVER THE PLACE!
I WON'T EVEN MENTION HOW BADLY THIS FIGHT'S CRIPPLIN' BUSINESS!
YOU DO UNDERSTAND BUSINESS, DON'T'CHA?
WHAT IS YOUR POINT, HAMMERHEAD?
THE WAY TA END THIS WAR IS FOR THE GANGS TO ALL HAVE ONE BOSS! A STRONG ARM CAN UNITE THE GANGS AND SEW THIS MESS UP SO WE CAN ALL PUT THE HARDWARE AWAY AND GET BACK TO BUSINESS!
AND THIS LEADER WOULD BE--?
ME!
I'M THE MOST QUALIFIED! I GOT THE MOST EXPERIENCE, THE MOST CASH, AND THE MOST MUSCLE! I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN, PALLY!
I'LL MAKE YOU MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND!
IN SPITE OF YOUR NEUTRALITY YOU'RE GONNA COME UNDER FIRE SOONER OR LATER! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO CHOOSE SIDES!
YOU'RE SMART, YOU'RE YOUNG...YOU GOT A GOOD RACKET HERE! I CAN USE A GUY LIKE YOU!
I'M FLATTERED BY YOUR INTEREST, HAMMERHEAD. I'LL CONSIDER IT.

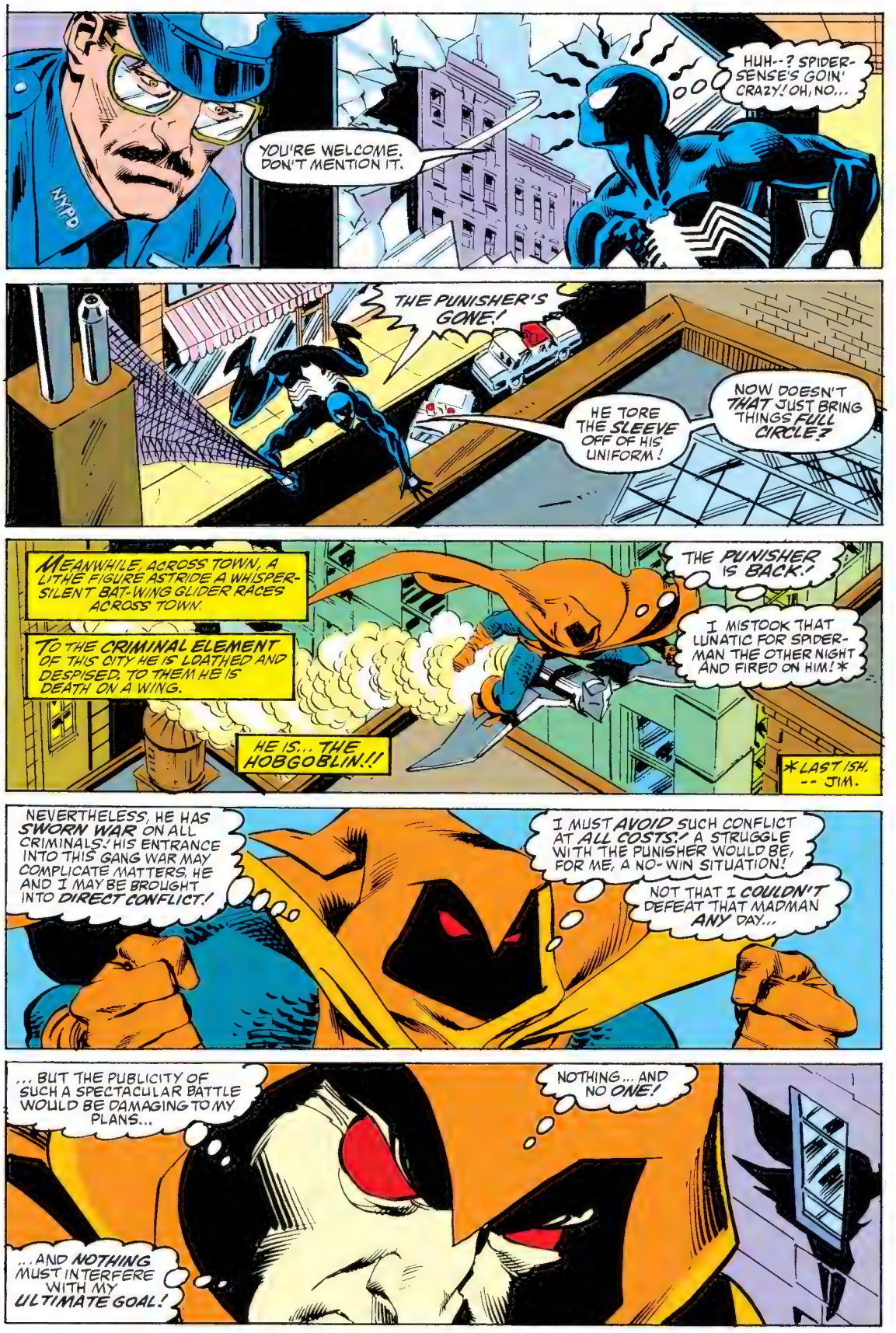
DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, PALLY! I'M GONNA MOVE ON THE ARRANGER SOON!
WHEN I DO, I'LL BE RUNNIN' THIS TOWN! THEN EITHER YOU'RE WITH ME... OR YOU'RE AGAINST ME!
I'LL TRY AND REMEMBER THAT, HAMMERHEAD. GOOD DAY.
THAT MAN IS STUCK IN AN EDWARD G. ROBINSON FILM.
ABSOLUTELY.
YUP.
HIS PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, DOES MAKE SENSE! YOU GIVE HIM AN ORAL AGREEMENT...
...THEN LET HIM TAKE THE RISK OF ASSASSINATING THE ARRANGER WHILE WE REST EASY!
BRRJNNGG!
STILL, WORD OF AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THAT... MISCREANT... AND MYSELF COULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO MY BUSINESS INTERESTS.
AFTER ALL, I DO TRAVEL IN THE FINER CIRCLES!
EXCUSE ME-- ONE OF OUR GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS HAS JUST BEEN INVADED BY THOSE ANNOYING "BLUE BOYS"!
I HAVE NO CONFLICT WITH THIS NEW CRIME ORGANIZATION...THEIR ATTACK ON MY ESTABLISHMENT WAS FRIVOLOUS AND UNWARRANTED.
CONTACT THE HOBGOBLIN! ASK HIM TO COMMUNICATE THAT FACT TO THE BLUE BOYS!
THIS ISN'T GOOD! THE WAR'S GETTING WORSE! IT'S CLEAR I'M GOING TO BE FORCED INTO TAKING SOME DIRECT INVOLVMENT IN THIS INSANITY.
IT'S REPULSIVE! SO MANY LITTLE BOYS RUNNING AMOK WITH BIG GUNS! SO MANY INNOCENTS SUFFERING...
I MUST FIND A WAY TO KEEP FROM BEING DRAWN DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL. I MUST FIND A WAY TO NAVIGATE THIS CRISIS. AND, PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO GO ABOUT IT...
...IS WITHOUT THIS MASK!

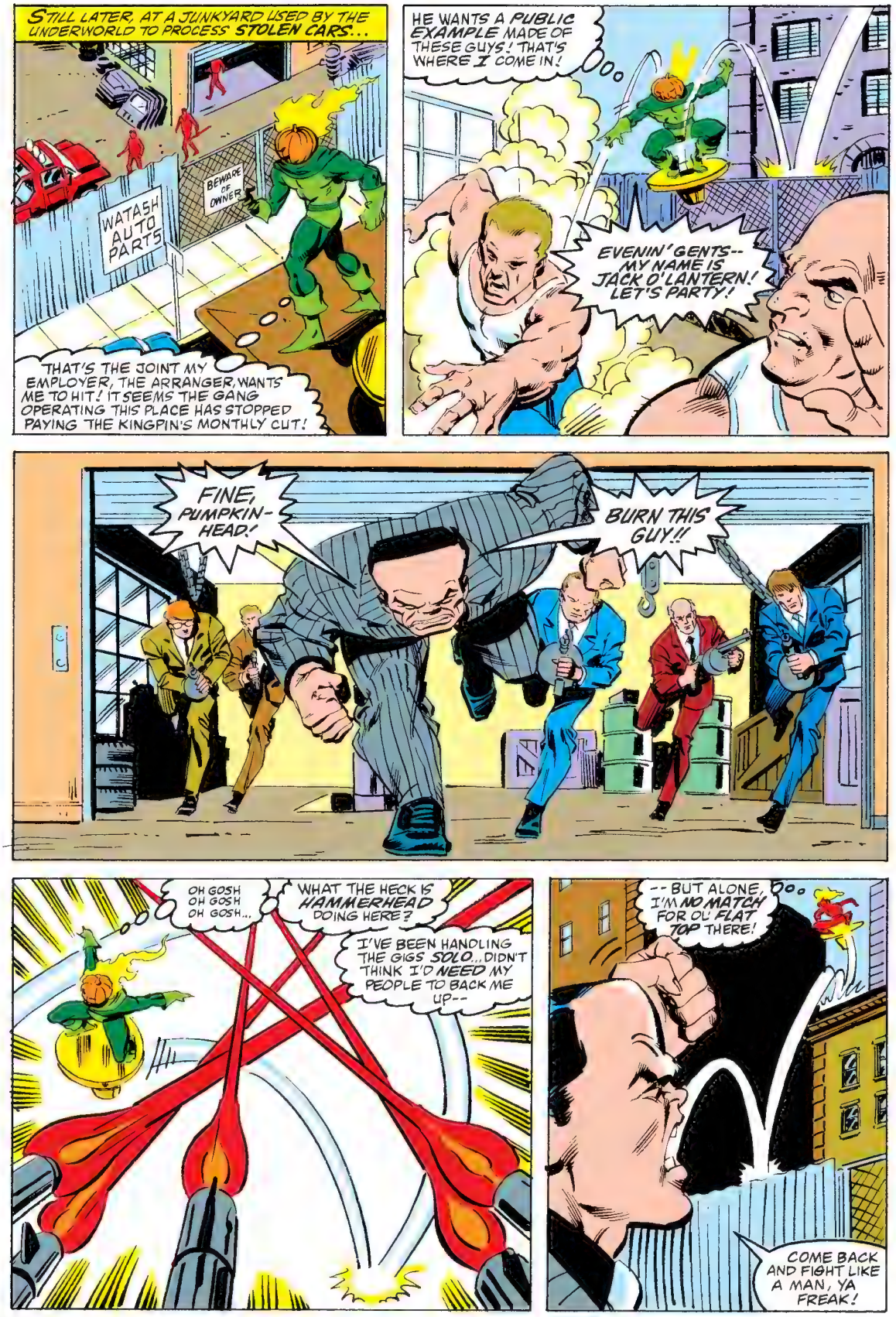
MEANWHILE, ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE, A BRAWL IS IN FULL SWING AT A VIDEO PARLOR THAT IS IN ACTUALITY A FRONT FOR THE ROSE'S GAMBLING DEN!
THE BLUE BOYS HAVE INVADED--UNPROVOKED! IT IS AN ACT OF AGRESSION DESIGNED TO DRAW THE RECALCITRANT ROSE INTO THE MOB WAR!
BOTH FACTIONS ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE.
HUH--?!
SPIDER-MAN!!
HEADS UP, CHUCKLES...
KRESH
...SPIDEY'S COMIN' THROUGH!
CAN'T YOU GUYS READ?!
THE SIGN SAYS, "PLAY AT YOUR OWN RISK!"
THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T GET MAD IF YOU LOSE YOUR QUARTER!
I KNOW, YOU'RE THINKING "IT'S NOT HIS MONEY."
WAP
WAP
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S NOT!
STILL, I THINK IT'S AWFULLY JUVENILE TO TAKE OUT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!
KER-RUNCH!


AS FOR YOU "BLUE BOYS," I THINK YOUR CHOICE IS CLEAR...
...EITHER DITCH THE SILLY MASKS OR STOP BUYING YOUR SUITS FROM DEPARTMENT STORES!
I--
WHOA!
SPIDER-SENSE BUZZING LIKE MAD! BUT, I'D SPOTTED THE BLUE BOYS' GUNS.. WHAT ELSE COULD'VE--?
HOW DID HE MOVE SO FAST?!
KR-KOW!
ZAP MAN
THOSE MEN... SHOT... FROM ACROSS THE STREET...
BUT... WHO COULD'VE... WHO WOULD'VE...
NUTS! THE GANG WAR REALLY STINKS! SO MANY DIFFERENT GANGS POPPING OFF ROUNDS AT EACH OTHER...
... AND OF COURSE, BOY GENIUS THAT I AM, I DECIDE TO JUMP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL!
VIDEO GAMES
WAIT-- WHO'S THAT UP ON THE ROOF--?
-- THE PUNISHER!!
THAT... LUNATIC... IS WALKIN' AROUND LOOSE AGAIN?!
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, CAN'T SOMEBODY LOCK HIM UP IN SOME HAPPY HOME FOR GOOD?!
HE'S A HOMICIDAL LOONEY-TUNE! THE GUY RUNS AROUND AND SHOOTS ANYONE HE THINKS IS A CRIMINAL!

THIS GANG WAR MUST DRAW GUYS LIKE HIM FROM THE WOODWORK!
HE WENT AFTER THE KINGPIN A WHILE AGO--!*
POOM!
*SEE THE PUNISHER LIMITED SERIES. -- JIM.
I WONDER IF HE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH KINGY'S DISAPPEARANCE?
AND, IF SO, WONDER IF I SHOULD THANK HIM OR PUNCH HIS LIGHTS OUT?!
EITHER WAY, BETTER NOT LOSE HAPPY BOY. HE NEEDS TO BE LOCKED AWAY FOR HIS OWN GOOD... ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THESE MOBSTERS ON THE STREET!
THE GUY'S LIKE A FAT LADY IN A PIZZA SHOP!
AND HE DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT THAT GAS GRENADE TO STOP ME!
HEY, PUNISHER--! WAIT UP!
SPIDER-MAN! THIS ISN'T YOUR WAR!
IT'S WAY PAST YOUR NAP TIME!
TRUE, BUT YOU KNOW HOW I JUST LOVE TO BUTT IN ON A GOOD PARTY!
BY THE WAY, BIG GUY--
--IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT YOUR TRIGGER-HAPPY ROUTINE BRINGS YOU DOWN TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THE CROOKS YOU HATE SO MUCH?
ISN'T THAT JUST A TAD HYPOCRITICAL ...?
NO MORE SO THAN YOUR OPTING TO CHASE ME WHILE THOSE MEN BACK AT THE ARCADE BLEED TO DEATH!
I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND YOUR MOTIVES, SPIDER-MAN, BUT IT STRIKES ME AS RATHER HYPOCRITICAL OF YOU TO ONLY SAVE THE PEOPE YOU WANT TO SAVE!
HE'S RIGHT! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THOSE GUYS HE SHOT! THEY'RE CROOKS, BUT IF I LET THEM DIE, I'M NO BETTER THAN THEY ARE!
DON'T GO AWAY, CHUCKLES! A LITTLE WEBBING OUGHTTA CONVINCE YOU TO STICK AROUND UNTIL I GET BACK--!
THWIPP!
THE FOOL MEANS WELL!
SOMEONE THAT POWERFUL AND THAT NAIVE IS A DANGER TO SOCIETY AND HIMSELF! SPIDER-MAN CAN'T POSSIBLY REALIZE HOW, EVERY TIME HE PUTS ON THAT MASK...

...HE PROTECTS THIS CITY'S CRIMINAL ELEMENT FROM THEIR OWN INBRED SYSTEM OF SELECTIVE ELIMINATION! INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM KILL EACH OTHER, HE TIES THEM UP AND DELIVERS THEM TO THE POLICE, WHO DELIVERS THEM TO THE COURTS... WHO PUT THEM BACK ON THE STREET. WELL, I AM THE ANSWER TO THAT PROBLEM, AND, MY YOUNG FRIEND NOTWITHSTANDING...
...I'M GOING TO CARRY OUT MY MISSION.
BUT FIRST I MUST BREAK FREE OF HIS INFERNAL WEBBING!
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN FOR THESE GUYS... CAN'T RISK MOVING THEM UNTIL SOME PROFESSIONAL MEDIC TYPES ARRIVE!
SO, I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS GANG WAR BUSINESS TO NOT STAND IDLY BY WHILE INNOCENTS ARE HURT OR KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE!
IF I'D WALKED AWAY FROM THIS, THE PUNISHER WOULD'VE TAKEN ALL OF THESE GUYS OUT! THAT WOULD'VE MEANT NINE FEWER GUN-TOTING CREEPS ON THE STREETS!
I CAN'T WAIT TILL THIS GANG WAR IS ALL OVER AND I'VE CLEARED FLASH THOMPSON OF BEING THE HOBGOBLIN!
THEN I CAN RETIRE AND GO BACK TO BEING JUST PETER PARKER!
COPS ARE HERE-- I WONDER IF THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT AT ME OR JUST YELL? EVER SINCE CAPTAIN KEATING TOOK OVER-- SINCE POOR JEAN DEWOLFF DIED...
WOOP! WOOP! WOOP! WOOP!
17 PCT
"... MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NYPD HAS GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE!"
BACK OFF, WEB-SLINGER!
KEATING'S GIVEN US ORDERS TO LOCK YOU UP IF YOU GET IN OUR WAY!


NYPD
YOU'RE WELCOME. DON'T MENTION IT.
HUH--? SPIDER-SENSE'S GOIN' CRAZY! OH, NO...
THE PUNISHER'S GONE!
HE TORE THE SLEEVE OFF OF HIS UNIFORM!
NOW DOESN'T THAT JUST BRING THINGS FULL CIRCLE?
MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, A LITHE FIGURE ASTRIDE A WHISPER-SILENT BAT-WING GLIDER RACES ACROSS TOWN.
TO THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT OF THIS CITY HE IS LOATHED AND DESPISED. TO THEM HE IS DEATH ON A WING.
HE IS... THE HOBGOBLIN!!
THE PUNISHER IS BACK!
I MISTOOK THAT LUNATIC FOR SPIDER-MAN THE OTHER NIGHT AND FIRED ON HIM! *
*LAST ISH. -- JIM.
NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS SWORN WAR ON ALL CRIMINALS! HIS ENTRANCE INTO THIS GANG WAR MAY COMPLICATE MATTERS. HE AND I MAY BE BROUGHT INTO DIRECT CONFLICT!
I MUST AVOID SUCH CONFLICT AT ALL COSTS! A STRUGGLE WITH THE PUNISHER WOULD BE, FOR ME, A NO-WIN SITUATION!
NOT THAT I COULDN'T DEFEAT THAT MADMAN ANY DAY...
... BUT THE PUBLICITY OF SUCH A SPECTACULAR BATTLE WOULD BE DAMAGING TO MY PLANS...
NOTHING... AND NO ONE!
...AND NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH MY ULTIMATE GOAL!

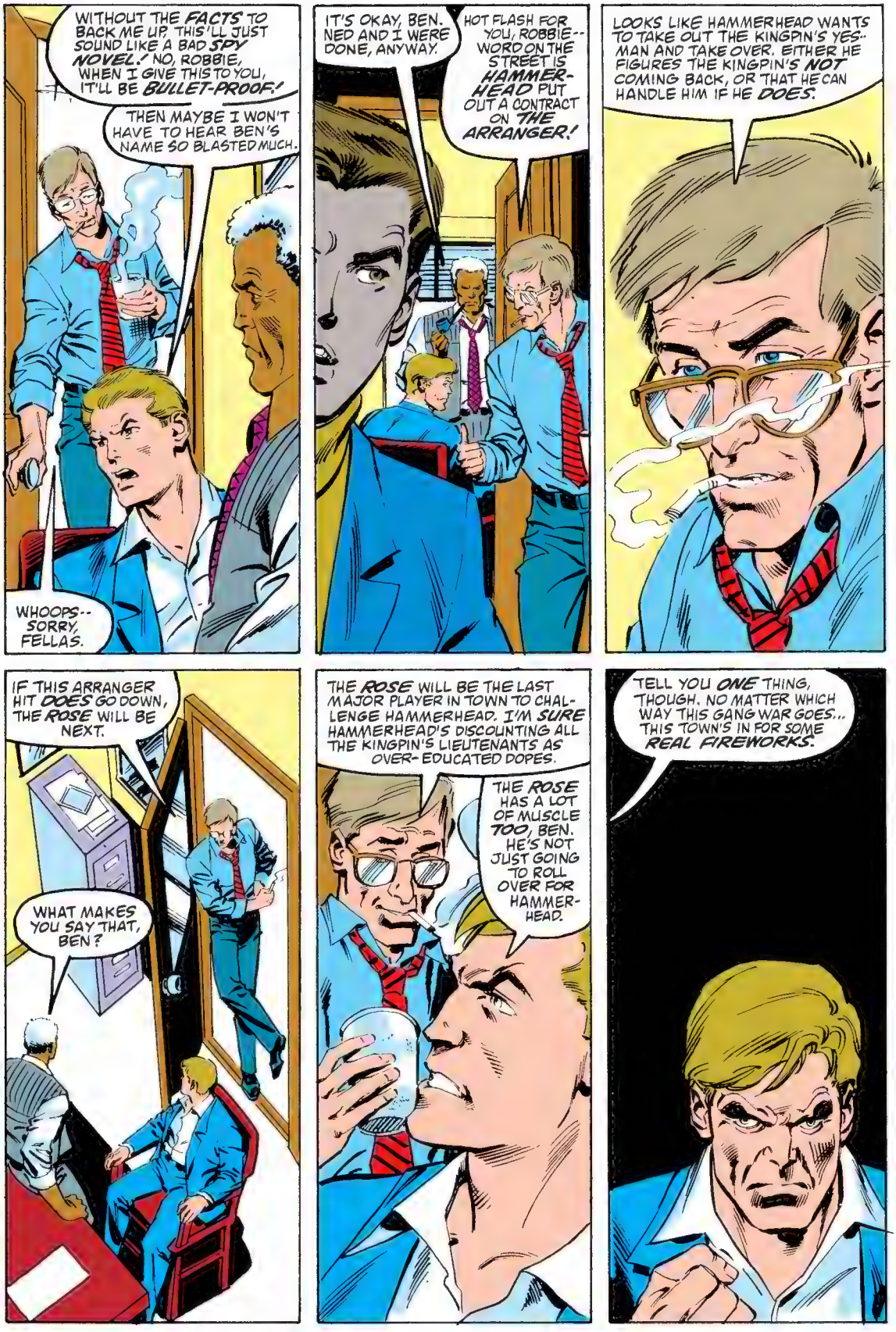

STILL LATER, AT A JUNKYARD USED BY THE UNDERWORLD TO PROCESS STOLEN CARS...
WATASH AUTO PARTS
BEWARE OF OWNER
THAT'S THE JOINT MY EMPLOYER, THE ARRANGER, WANTS ME TO HIT! IT SEEMS THE GANG OPERATING THIS PLACE HAS STOPPED PAYING THE KINGPIN'S MONTHLY CUT!
HE WANTS A PUBLIC EXAMPLE MADE OF THESE GUYS! THAT'S WHERE I COME IN!
EVENIN' GENTS-- MY NAME IS JACK O'LANTERN! LET'S PARTY!
FINE, PUMPKIN-HEAD!
BURN THIS GUY!!
OH GOSH OH GOSH OH GOSH...
WHAT THE HECK IS HAMMERHEAD DOING HERE?
I'VE BEEN HANDLING THE GIGS SOLO... DIDN'T THINK I'D NEED MY PEOPLE TO BACK ME UP--
-- BUT ALONE, I'M NO MATCH FOR OL' FLAT TOP THERE!
COME BACK AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN, YA FREAK!

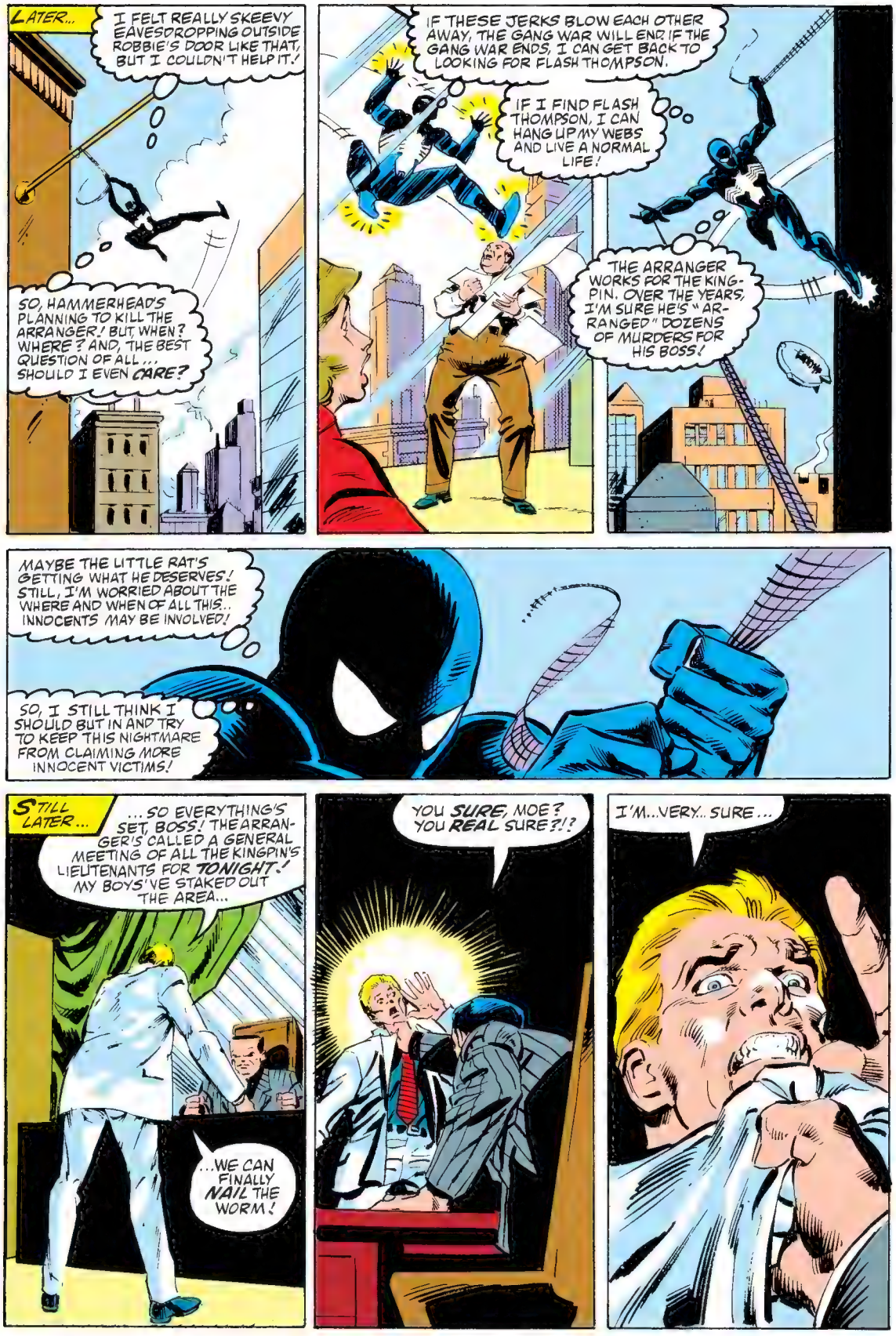
"...THE ARRANGER'S GONNA GET A BILL FROM ME LIKE HE'S NEVER SEEN!"
HOW MUCH LONGER, ARRANGER--?
WHEN IS KINGPIN COMING BACK?!
THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND--
SO FAR, PAL, YOU'VE BEEN ALL YAP AND NO ACTION. I HEAR THE PUNISHER'S GOTTEN INTO THIS THING!
YOU DON'T WANNA KNOW WHAT MY FOURTH QUARTER P&L SHEET LOOKS LIKE!
MY PEOPLE CAN'T WORK--
--UNLESS THINGS GET SETTLED! KINGPIN WOULD'VE DONE SOMETHING BY NOW.!!
MR. FISK WOULD'VE HAD THAT DIGIT YOU ARE RUDELY JABBING AT MYSELF PRE-JUDICIOUSLY REMOVED FROM YOUR HAND.
I SHALL EXPECT NOTHING BUT CO-OPERATION FROM YOU GENTLEMEN AND YOUR RESPECTIVE ASSIGNS. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO SETTLE THESE CONFLICTS AND PROMOTE NORMAL TRADE PRACTICES.
BUNNN
YES--?
MR. FISK TO SEE YOU, SIR... MR. RICHARD FISK!
THE KINGPIN'S SON?! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE? NOW?!

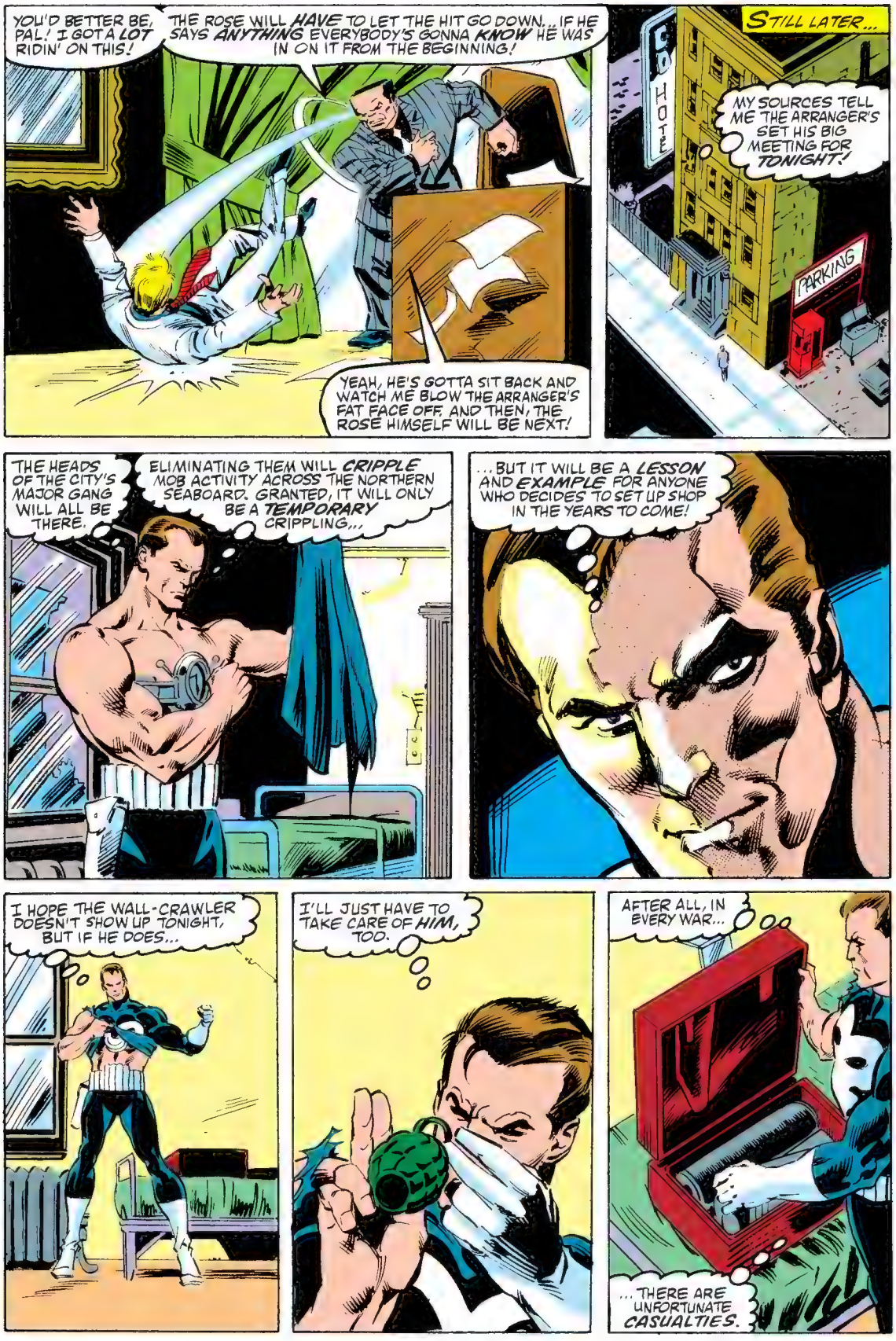
YOUNG MR. FISK HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH ME, GENTLEMEN.
FOR NOW, THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED.
MOMENTARILY...
NICE OF YOU TO SQUEEZE ME IN, ARRANGER. I MEAN, I DID COME TO SEE MY MOTHER THE OTHER NIGHT.*
RICHARD, YOUR MOTHER IS STILL QUITE ILL. YOUR FATHER LEFT STRICT INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HER CARE, AS IT IS I'M AT RISK FOR ALLOWING THIS VISIT.
*LAST ISH. -- JIM.
I KNOW YOU, ARRANGER.
YOU DON'T GO TO THE BATHROOM WITHOUT MY DEAR FATHER'S OKAY.
WHEN YOU CHAT WITH HIM NEXT, BE SURE AND TELL HIM I STILL HATE HIS GUTS.
YOUR GIFT FOR COLORFUL LINGUISTICS IS ENVIABLE.
YOU'RE A PIP, YOURSELF, ARRANGER.
YOU MAY HAVE TEN MINUTES, NO MORE.
WHO-- WHO ARE YOU...?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOTHER... IT'S JUST ME, RICHARD.
YOUR SON.
M... MY SON... I... I... DON'T KNOW YOU...
I'M AFRAID...
SO AM I, MOTHER. THIS IS A DANGEROUS GAME I'M PLAYING...
...A LOT OF RISK INVOLVED. I GET AFRAID SOMETIMES... A LOT OF TIMES.
THEN I REMEMBER I HAVE YOU. YOU HAVE ME. WE HAVE EACH OTHER.
THEN I KNOW EVERYTHING'S GOING TO WORK OUT. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

SOMETIME LATER...
NO SIGN OF THE PUNISHER... NOT THAT I REALLY EXPECTED TO FIND HIM. GUN-TOTING NUT CASES ARE USUALLY REAL GOOD AT MELTING INTO THE WOODWORK!
AT LEAST THE PUNISHER SEEMS TO CARE ABOUT THE INNOCENTS WHO COULD BE HURT DURING HIS LITTLE CAMPAIGNS! IT'S THOSE RECKLESS MOB IDIOTS I'M AFRAID OF!
THE KIND OF HUMAN FILTH WHO DOESN'T EVEN CARE WHO GETS HIT IN THE CROSS-FIRE! IT'S THOSE GUYS WHO'VE MADE ME DECIDE TO RIDE GANG WAR OUT AS SPIDER-MAN...
...DESPITE MY DECISION TO HANG UP MY TIGHTS FOREVER! WELL, IF THERE IS A SILVER LINING TO THIS MESS, IT'S THAT NO ONE WAS KILLED IN TODAY'S SHOOTOUT...
...AND THAT I'D MANAGED TO HAVE MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA CLICKING AWAY THE WHOLE TIME! AND, FOR THIS STARVING PHOTOGRAPHER, THIS ROLL OF FILM MEANS ONE THING...
...RENT MONEY.
SOON, IN THE DAILY BUGLE'S CITY ROOM...
HEY-- KATE! I'VE GOT SOME GREAT SHOTS OF THAT SHOOT-OUT AT THE VIDEO ARCADE THIS MORNING--
WELL, I'LL TAKE A LOOK, PETER, BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH!
UPI PHOTOGS WERE CRAWLING ALL OVER THAT SCENE MOMENTS AFTER IT BEGAN. I'VE GOT A STACK OF SHOTS TO CHOOSE FROM AND, CONSIDERING ALL THE OTHER FIREFIGHTS BREAKING OUT NOWADAYS...
...THIS ONE REALLY ISN'T THAT BIG A DEAL. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, PARKER. IF YOU'D RAN STRAIGHT OVER I MIGHT'VE RUN YOUR SHOTS.
INSTEAD, YOU TOOK YOUR COFFEE BREAK, OR WHATEVER.
I WAS SEARCHING FOR THE PUNISHER-- BUT HOW DO I TELL HER THAT?!
I REALLY NEED TO GET INTO ANOTHER LINE OF WORK...
HEY-- PETER--!

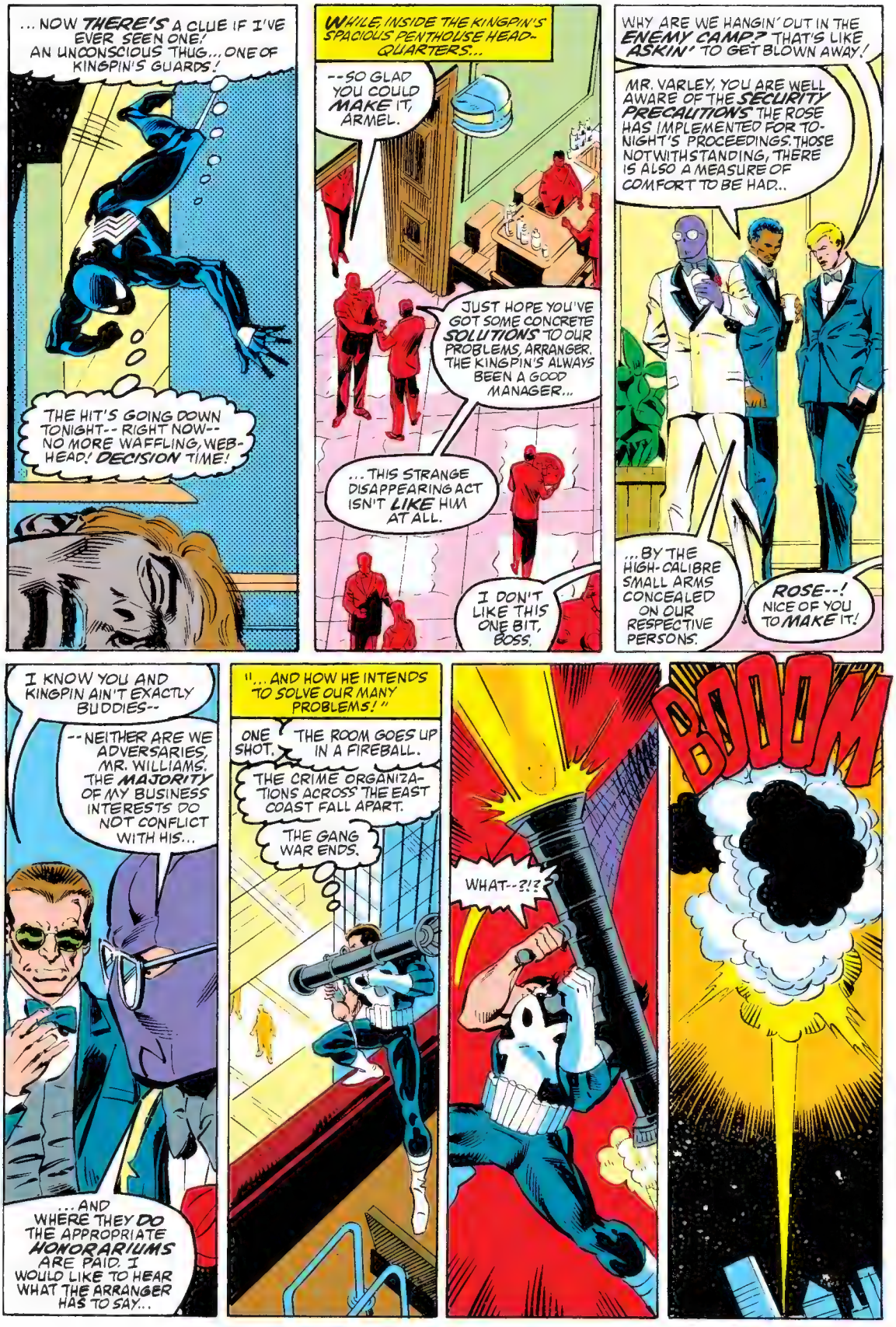
EH--? OH, HI, ANN. ISN'T THAT BETTY LEEDS' DESK...?
YEAH, BUT BETTY CALLED IN SICK. NOT THAT SHE'S SICK, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT...
UH... I'M NOT FOLLOWING YOU...
WELL, WHAT WITH HER MARRIAGE FALLING APART AND THE POLICE HUNTING DOWN FLASH THOMPSON--HER BOYFRIEND--IT'S NO WONDER!
I'LL BET HER HUSBAND NED CALLS IN SICK TOMORROW, THOUGH. HE'S IN ROBBIE'S OFFICE GETTING CHEWED-OUT RIGHT NOW.
I REALLY DON'T NEED THIS NOW...
LOOK, ANN... I'VE REALLY GOTTA SPLIT...
WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME SOMETIME, SPORT?
MEANWHILE, IN JOE ROBERTSON'S OFFICE...
...EMBARRASSING SITUATION, NED. YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME OUT IN THE FIELD, BUT YOU HAVEN'T PRODUCED ENOUGH HARD COPY TO JUSTIFY IT. YOU'VE TOLD YOUR WIFE BETTY YOU'VE BEEN ON UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENTS...
...ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN OUT BY ME...
NED, I'M YOUR FRIEND, BUT I'M ALSO THE BUGLE'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME CLEAN WITH ME.
ALL RIGHT, ROBBIE. ALL RIGHT.
I LIED.
I TOLD MY WIFE THOSE THINGS TO HIDE THE FACT THAT I'VE BEEN FEELING... WELL... INADEQUATE. I'VE BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY THE BUGLE'S "STAR" REPORTER... BEN URICH.
BEN GETS THE FRONT PAGE. BEN GETS THE BYLINE. BEN IS ALL MY "FELLOW REPORTERS" TALK ABOUT WHEN WE GET TOGETHER!
IT SICKENS ME.
SO, FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS I'VE PUT ALL MY TIME AND ALL MY ENERGY INTO RESEARCHING A NEW STORY. A BIG STORY, ROBBIE.
PULITZER MATERIAL.
WE'RE TRYING TO RUN A NEWSPAPER, SON. NOT WIN PRIZES.
ALL I NEED IS CERTAIN INFORMATION ON SOVIET SPY ACTIVITIES DURING THE COLD WAR OF THE EARLY SIXTIES...
...AND I'LL BE READY TO LET YOU IN.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH NOW?


WITHOUT THE FACTS TO BACK ME UP, THIS'LL JUST SOUND LIKE A BAD SPY NOVEL! NO, ROBBIE, WHEN I GIVE THIS TO YOU, IT'LL BE BULLET-PROOF!
THEN MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO HEAR BEN'S NAME SO BLASTED MUCH.
WHOOPS-- SORRY, FELLAS.
IT'S OKAY, BEN. NED AND I WERE DONE, ANYWAY.
HOT FLASH FOR YOU, ROBBIE-- WORD ON THE STREET IS HAMMER-HEAD PUT OUT A CONTRACT ON THE ARRANGER!
LOOKS LIKE HAMMERHEAD WANTS TO TAKE OUT THE KINGPIN'S YES-MAN AND TAKE OVER. EITHER HE FIGURES THE KINGPIN'S NOT COMING BACK, OR THAT HE CAN HANDLE HIM IF HE DOES.
IF THIS ARRANGER HIT DOES GO DOWN, THE ROSE WILL BE NEXT.
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT, BEN?
THE ROSE WILL BE THE LAST MAJOR PLAYER IN TOWN TO CHALLENGE HAMMERHEAD. I'M SURE HAMMERHEAD'S DISCOUNTING ALL THE KINGPIN'S LIEUTENANTS AS OVER-EDUCATED DOPES.
THE ROSE HAS A LOT OF MUSCLE TOO, BEN. HE'S NOT JUST GOING TO ROLL OVER FOR HAMMER-HEAD.
I TELL YOU ONE THING, THOUGH. NO MATTER WHICH WAY THIS GANG WAR GOES... THIS TOWN'S IN FOR SOME REAL FIREWORKS.


LATER...
I FELT REALLY SKEEVY EAVESDROPPING OUTSIDE ROBBIE'S DOOR LIKE THAT, BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT!
SO, HAMMERHEAD'S PLANNING TO KILL THE ARRANGER! BUT, WHEN? WHERE? AND, THE BEST QUESTION OF ALL... SHOULD I EVEN CARE?
IF THESE JERKS BLOW EACH OTHER AWAY, THE GANG WAR WILL END! IF THE GANG WAR ENDS, I CAN GET BACK TO LOOKING FOR FLASH THOMPSON.
IF I FIND FLASH THOMPSON, I CAN HANG UP MY WEBS AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE!
THE ARRANGER WORKS FOR THE KINGPIN. OVER THE YEARS, I'M SURE HE'S "ARRANGED" DOZENS OF MURDERS FOR HIS BOSS!
KRKNN
MAYBE THE LITTLE RAT'S GETTING WHAT HE DESERVES! STILL, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE WHERE AND WHEN OF ALL THIS.. INNOCENTS MAY BE INVOLVED!
SO, I STILL THINK I SHOULD BUT IN AND TRY TO KEEP THIS NIGHTMARE FROM CLAIMING MORE INNOCENT VICTIMS!
STILL LATER...
...SO EVERYTHING'S SET, BOSS! THE ARRANGER'S CALLED A GENERAL MEETING OF ALL THE KINGPIN'S LIEUTENANTS FOR TONIGHT! MY BOYS'VE STAKED OUT THE AREA...
...WE CAN FINALLY NAIL THE WORM!
YOU SURE, MOE? YOU REAL SURE?!?
I'M...VERY... SURE...

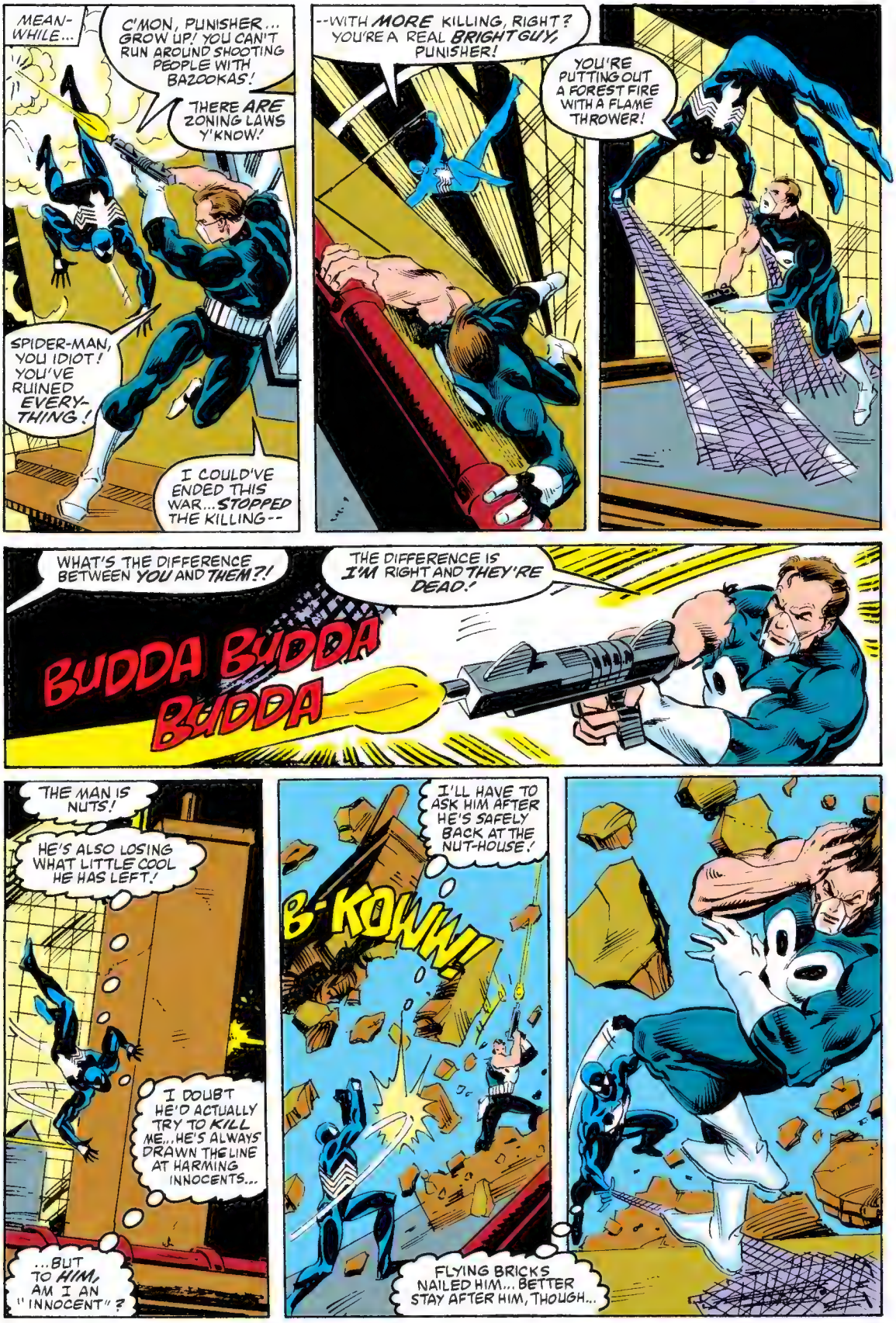

YOU'D BETTER BE, PAL! I GOT A LOT RIDIN' ON THIS!
THE ROSE WILL HAVE TO LET THE HIT GO DOWN... IF HE SAYS ANYTHING EVERYBODY'S GONNA KNOW HE WAS IN ON IT FROM THE BEGINNING!
YEAH, HE'S GOTTA SIT BACK AND WATCH ME BLOW THE ARRANGER'S FAT FACE OFF, AND THEN, THE ROSE HIMSELF WILL BE NEXT!
STILL LATER...
HOTEL
PARKING
MY SOURCES TELL ME THE ARRANGER'S SET HIS BIG MEETING FOR TONIGHT!
THE HEADS OF THE CITY'S MAJOR GANG WILL ALL BE THERE.
ELIMINATING THEM WILL CRIPPLE MOB ACTIVITY ACROSS THE NORTHERN SEABOARD. GRANTED, IT WILL ONLY BE A TEMPORARY CRIPPLING...
...BUT IT WILL BE A LESSON AND EXAMPLE FOR ANYONE WHO DECIDES TO SET UP SHOP IN THE YEARS TO COME!
I HOPE THE WALL-CRAWLER DOESN'T SHOW UP TONIGHT, BUT IF HE DOES...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, TOO.
AFTER ALL, IN EVERY WAR...
...THERE ARE UNFORTUNATE CASUALTIES.

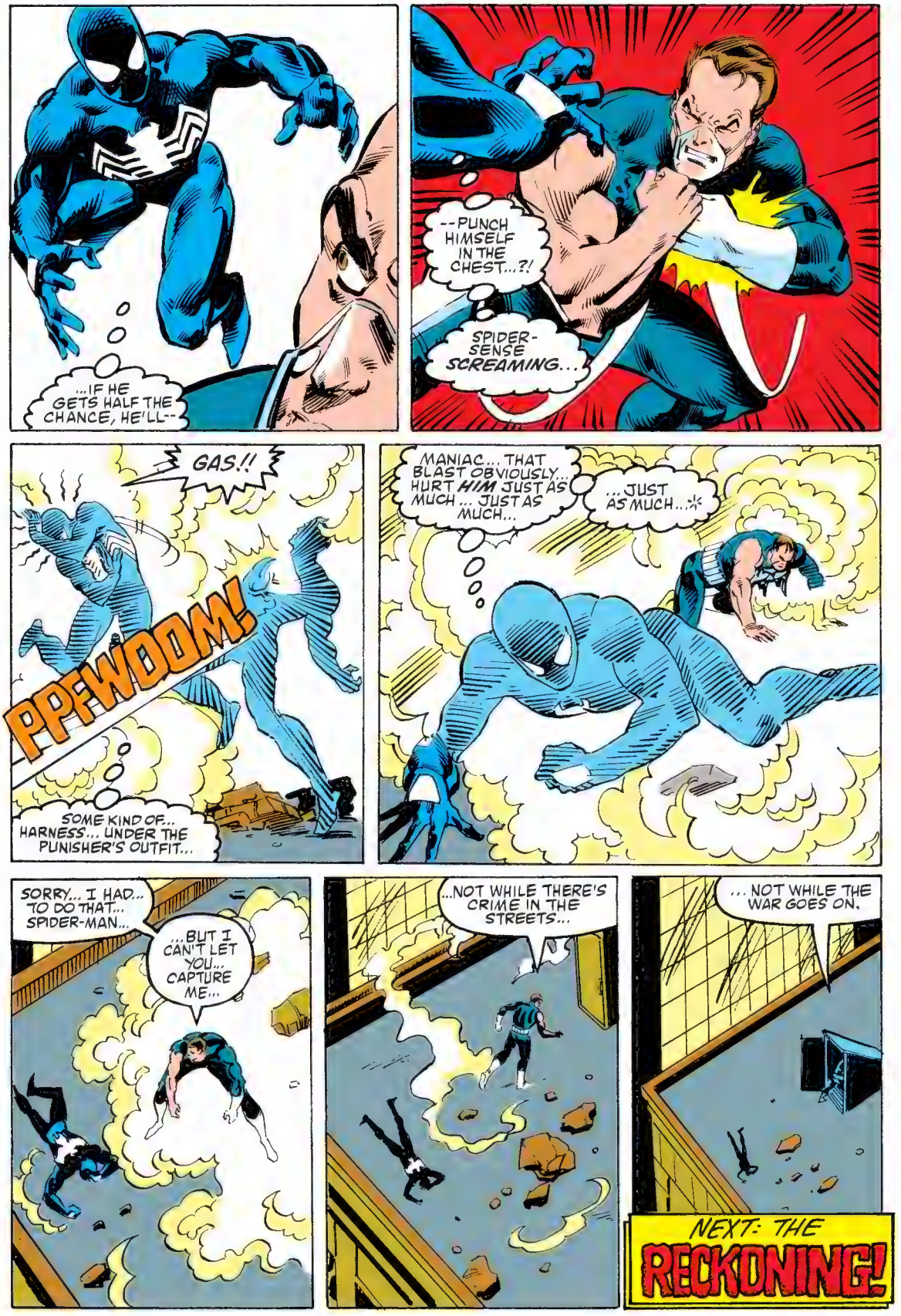
MIDNIGHT.
GANGLORDS FROM THE CITY'S MAJOR CRIME NETWORKS BEGIN ARRIVING AT THE KINGPIN'S PARK AVENUE OFFICES FOR THEIR CONFERENCE WITH THE ARRANGER!
WHILE, ON THE ROOFTOPS, SURROUNDING THE BUILDING, THE KINGPIN'S MEN STAND WATCH...
MMMPHFF--!
UHHGNNN--!
SOK
POW
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY...
WELL, I'VE BLOWN MY ENTIRE DAY LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF FLASH THOMPSON OR THE PUNISHER! PUNISHER I CAN FIGURE, BUT FLASH--
--FLASH MUST'VE SKIPPED TOWN! THAT, OR HE ACTUALLY IS THE HOBGOBLIN... THE CRIME HE'S BEEN ACCUSED OF! I CAN'T BELIEVE THE HOBGOBLIN COULD ACTUALLY BE SOMEONE I'VE EVER MET--LET ALONE ONE OF MY OLDEST FRIENDS!
SAY... I'M OVER BY THE KINGPIN'S OFFICE! I WONDER IF THAT'S AN ACCIDENT?
...OR IF I'M SUBCONSCIOUSLY DETERMINED TO INVOLVE MYSELF IN THIS ARRANGER "CONTRACT" BUSINESS!
I HAVEN'T EVEN A CLUE AS TO WHERE OR WHEN THIS HIT IS...
--WHOA!

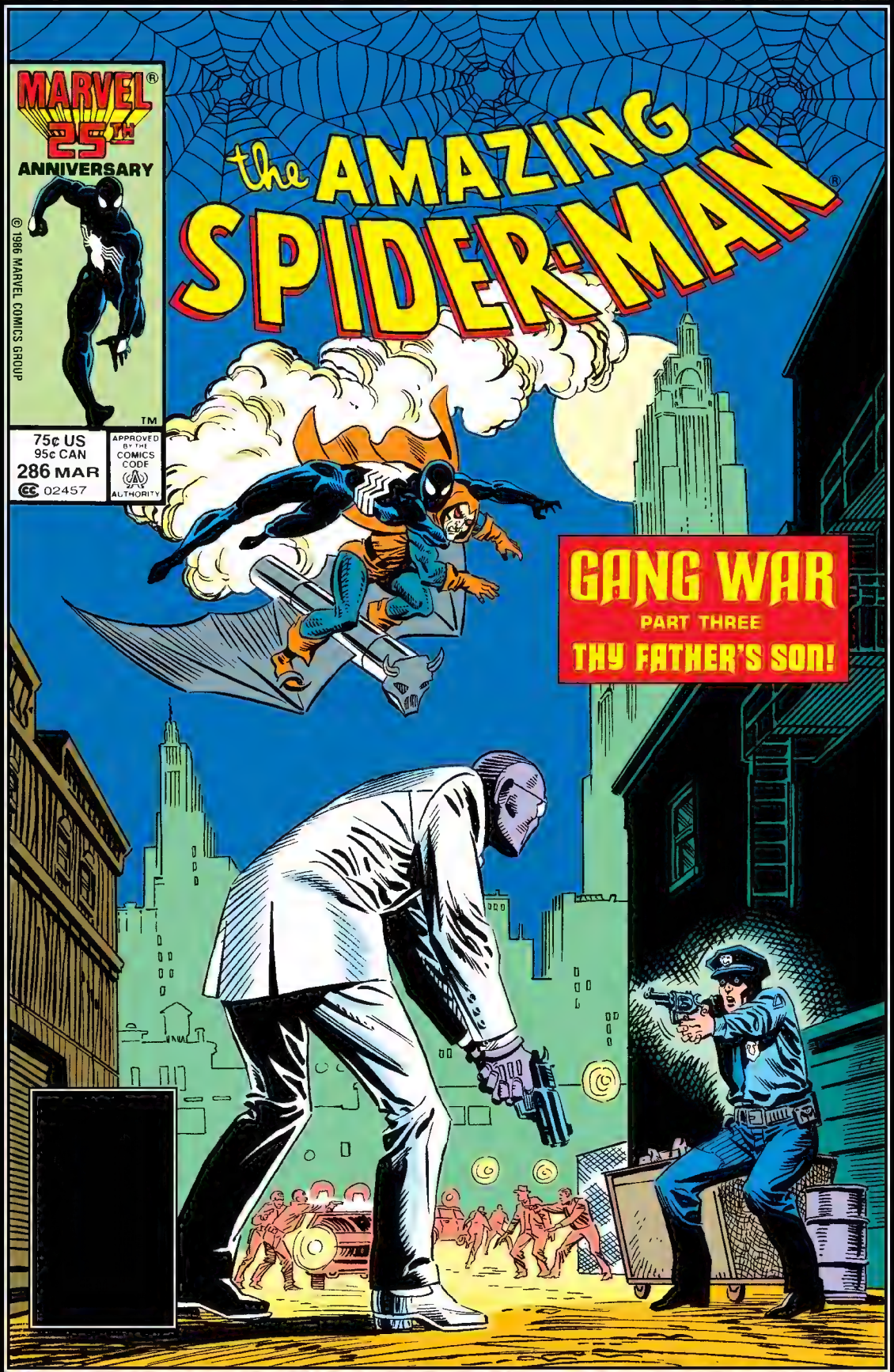

... NOW THERE'S A CLUE IF I'VE EVER SEEN ONE! AN UNCONSCIOUS THUG... ONE OF KINGPIN'S GUARDS!
THE HIT'S GOING DOWN TONIGHT-- RIGHT NOW-- NO MORE WAFFLING, WEB-HEAD! DECISION TIME!
WHILE, INSIDE THE KINGPIN'S SPACIOUS PENTHOUSE HEAD-QUARTERS...
--SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, ARMEL.
JUST HOPE YOU'VE GOT SOME CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS, ARRANGER. THE KINGPIN'S ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD MANAGER...
... THIS STRANGE DISAPPEARING ACT ISN'T LIKE HIM AT ALL.
I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT, BOSS.
WHY ARE WE HANGIN' OUT IN THE ENEMY CAMP? THAT'S LIKE ASKIN' TO GET BLOWN AWAY!
MR. VARLEY, YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS THE ROSE HAS IMPLEMENTED FOR TO-NIGHT'S PROCEEDINGS. THOSE NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE IS ALSO A MEASURE OF COMFORT TO BE HAD...
...BY THE HIGH-CALIBRE SMALL ARMS CONCEALED ON OUR RESPECTIVE PERSONS.
ROSE--! NICE OF YOU TO MAKE IT!
I KNOW YOU AND KINGPIN AIN'T EXACTLY BUDDIES--
--NEITHER ARE WE ADVERSARIES, MR. WILLIAMS. THE MAJORITY OF MY BUSINESS INTERESTS DO NOT CONFLICT WITH HIS...
...AND WHERE THEY DO THE APPROPRIATE HONORARIUMS ARE PAID, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR WHAT THE ARRANGER HAS TO SAY...
"...AND HOW HE INTENDS TO SOLVE OUR MANY PROBLEMS!"
ONE SHOT.
THE ROOM GOES UP IN A FIREBALL.
THE CRIME ORGANIZA-TIONS ACROSS THE EAST COAST FALL APART.
THE GANG WAR ENDS.
WHAT--?!?
BOOOM

HOLEE--!
--AN EXPLOSION!
LEMME OUTTA HERE!
MOVE IT!
DON'T PANIC! LET'S KEEP OUR HEADS AND...MOE?! WHAT ARE YOU--
MOE, THIS CONDUCT IS EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO OUR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP...
I'M THROUGH TAKIN' ORDERS FROM YOU, EGGHEAD!
HAMMERHEAD SAYS "HI"!
HOBGOBLIN... STRIKE NOW!!
WHAT--? JACK O'LANTERN ON ONE SIDE--HOBGOBLIN ON THE OTHER... ?!
KRESH
N... NO... BEIN' BLASTED... BY BOTH OF 'EM...!
YYEEAARGGH!

THAT WAS QUITE UNNECESSARY, ROSE. AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAD THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND.
NEVERTHELESS, I AM PUZZLED BY YOUR CONCERNED INTERVENTION...?
LET'S JUST SAY I'D BE INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING OUR TIES, ARRANGER.
IT IS, OF COURSE IN OUR COMMON INTEREST TO DO SO.
I AGREE. THEN, OUR RESPECTIVE ENFORCERS...
...WILL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER. GENTLEMEN...?
SHAKE THE MAN'S HAND, HOBGOBLIN.
ROSE, WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU--
LATER.
GENTLEMEN, THE AUTHORITIES ARE EN ROUTE, WITH REGARDS TO THE EXPLOSIONS HEARD OUTSIDE... MOE'S COHORTS, NO DOUBT.
I SUGGEST WE ADJOURN THIS UNTIL A FUTURE DATE.
EXIT


MEAN-WHILE...
C'MON, PUNISHER... GROW UP! YOU CAN'T RUN AROUND SHOOTING PEOPLE WITH BAZOOKAS!
THERE ARE ZONING LAWS Y'KNOW!
SPIDER-MAN, YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE RUINED EVERY-THING!
I COULD'VE ENDED THIS WAR... STOPPED THE KILLING--
--WITH MORE KILLING, RIGHT? YOU'RE A REAL BRIGHT GUY, PUNISHER!
YOU'RE PUTTING OUT A FOREST FIRE WITH A FLAME THROWER!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND THEM?!
THE DIFFERENCE IS I'M RIGHT AND THEY'RE DEAD!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
THE MAN IS NUTS!
HE'S ALSO LOSING WHAT LITTLE COOL HE HAS LEFT!
I DOUBT HE'D ACTUALLY TRY TO KILL ME... HE'S ALWAYS DRAWN THE LINE AT HARMING INNOCENTS...
...BUT TO HIM, AM I AN "INNOCENT"?
I'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM AFTER HE'S SAFELY BACK AT THE NUT-HOUSE!
B-KOWW!
FLYING BRICKS NAILED HIM... BETTER STAY AFTER HIM, THOUGH...


...IF HE GETS HALF THE CHANCE, HE'LL--
--PUNCH HIMSELF IN THE CHEST...?!
SPIDER-SENSE SCREAMING...
GAS!!
PPFWOOM!
SOME KIND OF... HARNESS... UNDER THE PUNISHER'S OUTFIT...
MANIAC... THAT BLAST OBVIOUSLY... HURT HIM JUST AS MUCH... JUST AS MUCH...
...JUST AS MUCH...*
SORRY... I HAD... TO DO THAT... SPIDER-MAN...
...BUT I CAN'T LET YOU... CAPTURE ME...
...NOT WHILE THERE'S CRIME IN THE STREETS...
...NOT WHILE THE WAR GOES ON.
NEXT: THE RECKONING!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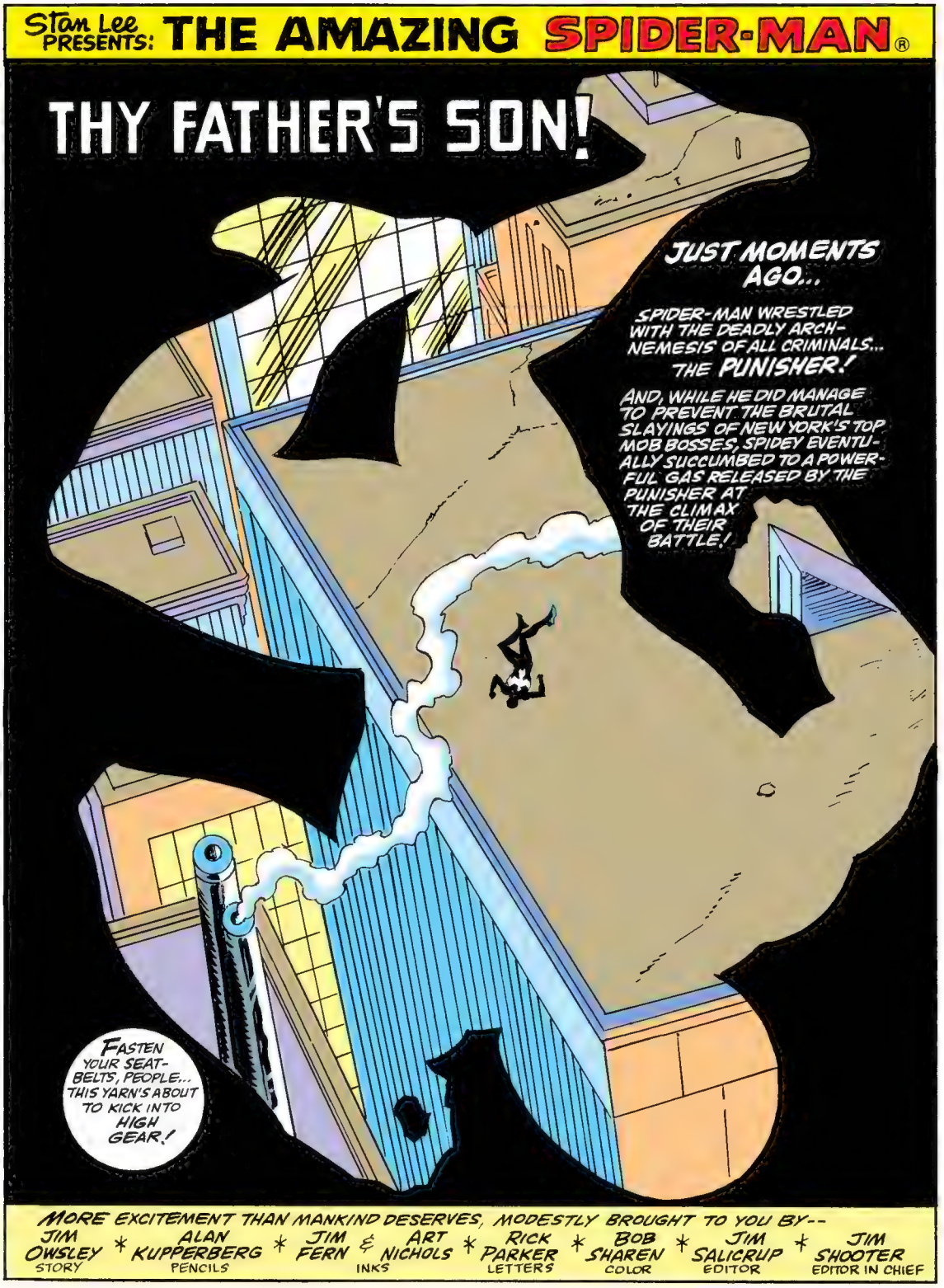
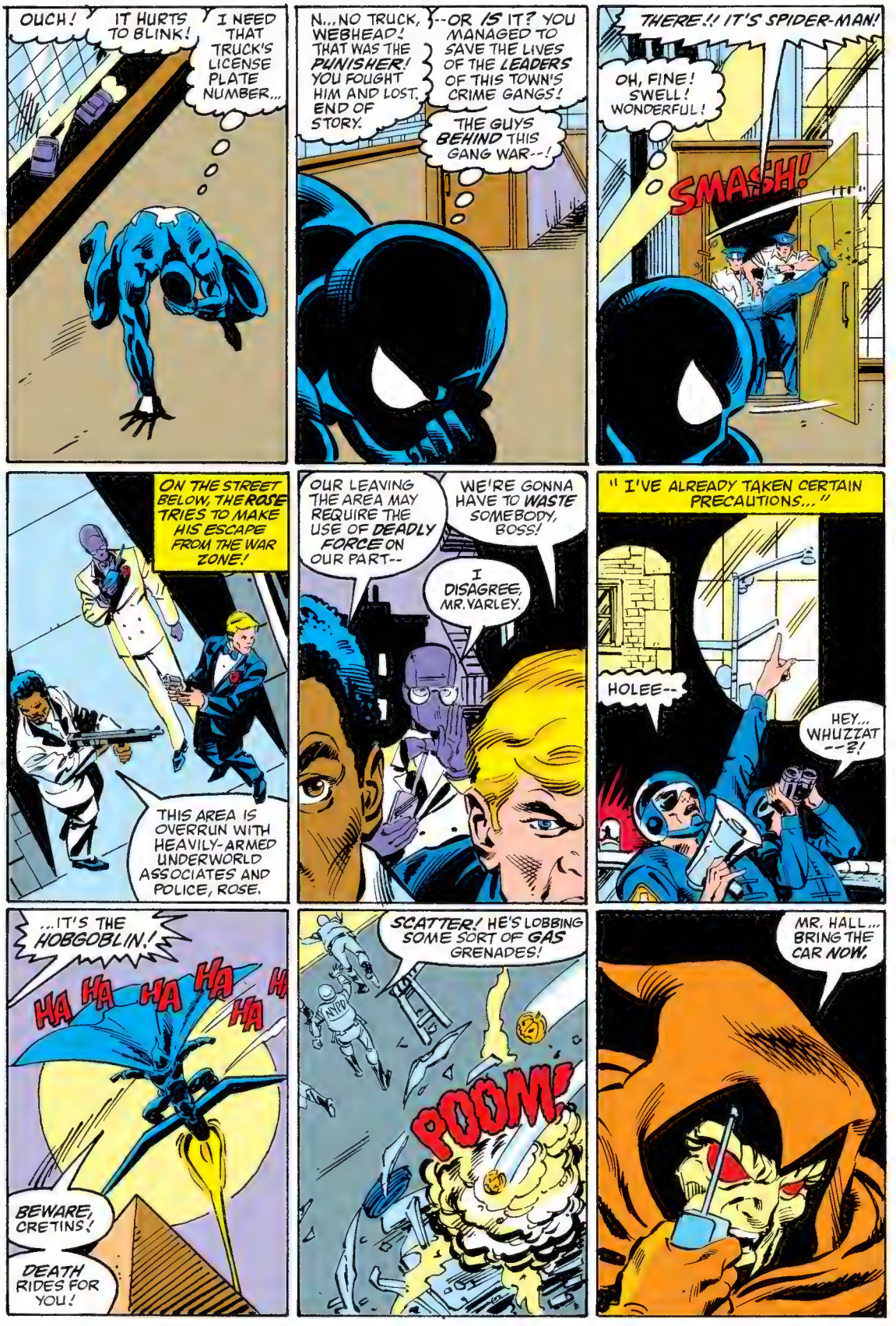
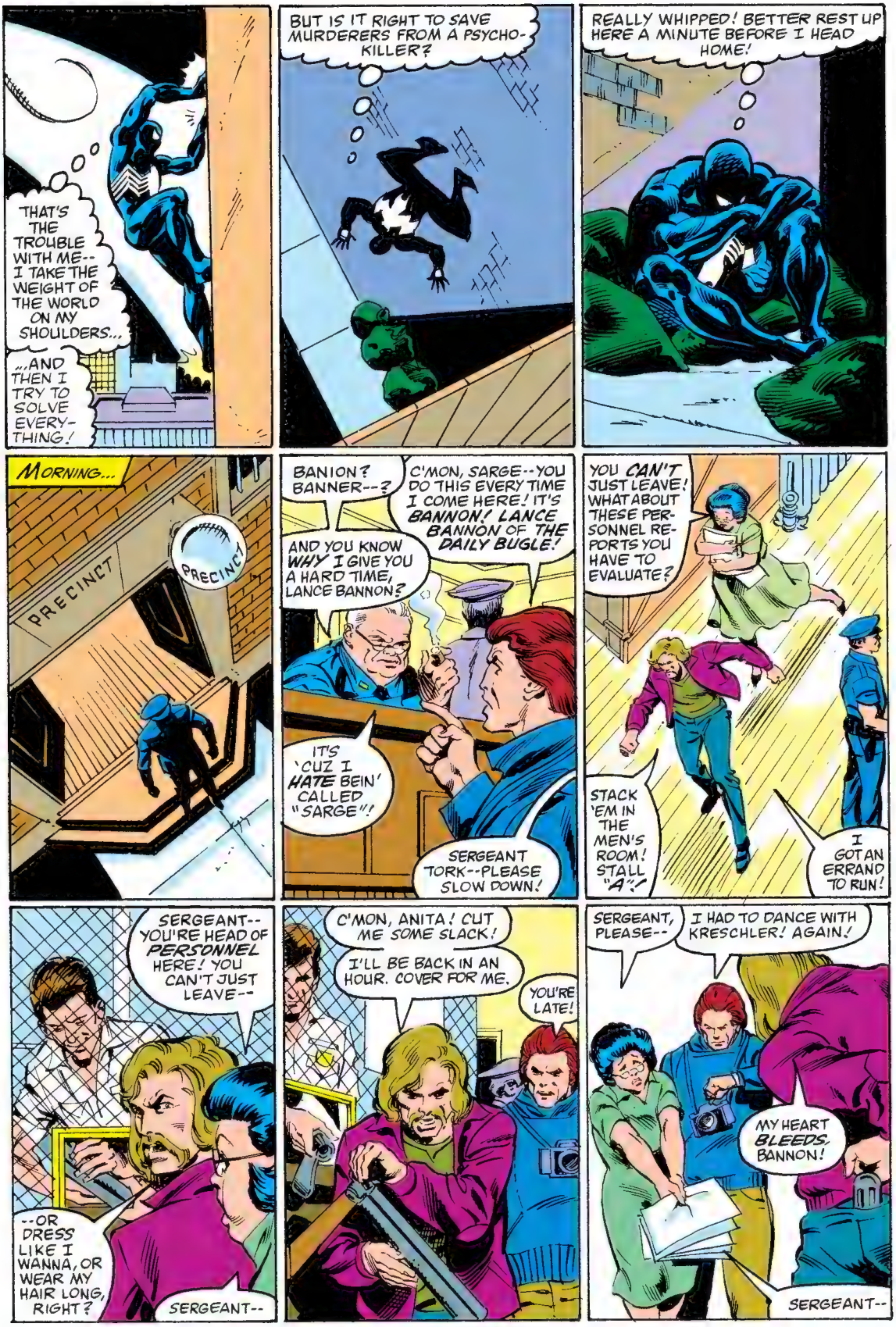
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
GANG WAR
PART THREE
THY FATHER'S SON!


Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
THY FATHER'S SON!
JUST MOMENTS AGO...
SPIDER-MAN WRESTLED WITH THE DEADLY ARCH-NEMESIS OF ALL CRIMINALS... THE PUNISHER!
AND, WHILE HE DID MANAGE TO PREVENT THE BRUTAL SLAYINGS OF NEW YORK'S TOP MOB BOSSES, SPIDEY EVENTUALLY SUCCUMBED TO A POWERFUL GAS RELEASED BY THE PUNISHER AT THE CLIMAX OF THEIR BATTLE!
FASTEN YOUR SEAT-BELTS, PEOPLE... THIS YARN'S ABOUT TO KICK INTO HIGH GEAR!
MORE EXCITEMENT THAN MANKIND DESERVES, MODESTLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY--
JIM OWSLEY STORY * ALAN KUPPERBERG PENCILS * JIM FERN & ART NICHOLS INKS * RICK PARKER LETTERS * BOB SHAREN COLOR * JIM SALICRUP EDITOR * JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF


OUCH!
IT HURTS TO BLINK!
I NEED THAT TRUCK'S LICENSE PLATE NUMBER...
N...NO TRUCK, WEBHEAD! THAT WAS THE PUNISHER! YOU FOUGHT HIM AND LOST. END OF STORY.
--OR IS IT? YOU MANAGED TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE LEADERS OF THIS TOWN'S CRIME GANGS!
THE GUYS BEHIND THIS GANG WAR--!
THERE!! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
OH, FINE! SWELL! WONDERFUL!
SMASH!
ON THE STREET BELOW, THE ROSE TRIES TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE FROM THE WAR ZONE!
THIS AREA IS OVERRUN WITH HEAVILY-ARMED UNDERWORLD ASSOCIATES AND POLICE, ROSE.
OUR LEAVING THE AREA MAY REQUIRE THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE ON OUR PART--
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO WASTE SOMEBODY, BOSS!
I DISAGREE, MR. VARLEY.
" I'VE ALREADY TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONS..."
HOLEE--
HEY... WHUZZAT --?!
...IT'S THE HOBGOBLIN!
HA HA HA HA HA
BEWARE, CRETINS!
DEATH RIDES FOR YOU!
SCATTER! HE'S LOBBING SOME SORT OF GAS GRENADES!
NYPD
POOM!
MR. HALL... BRING THE CAR NOW.

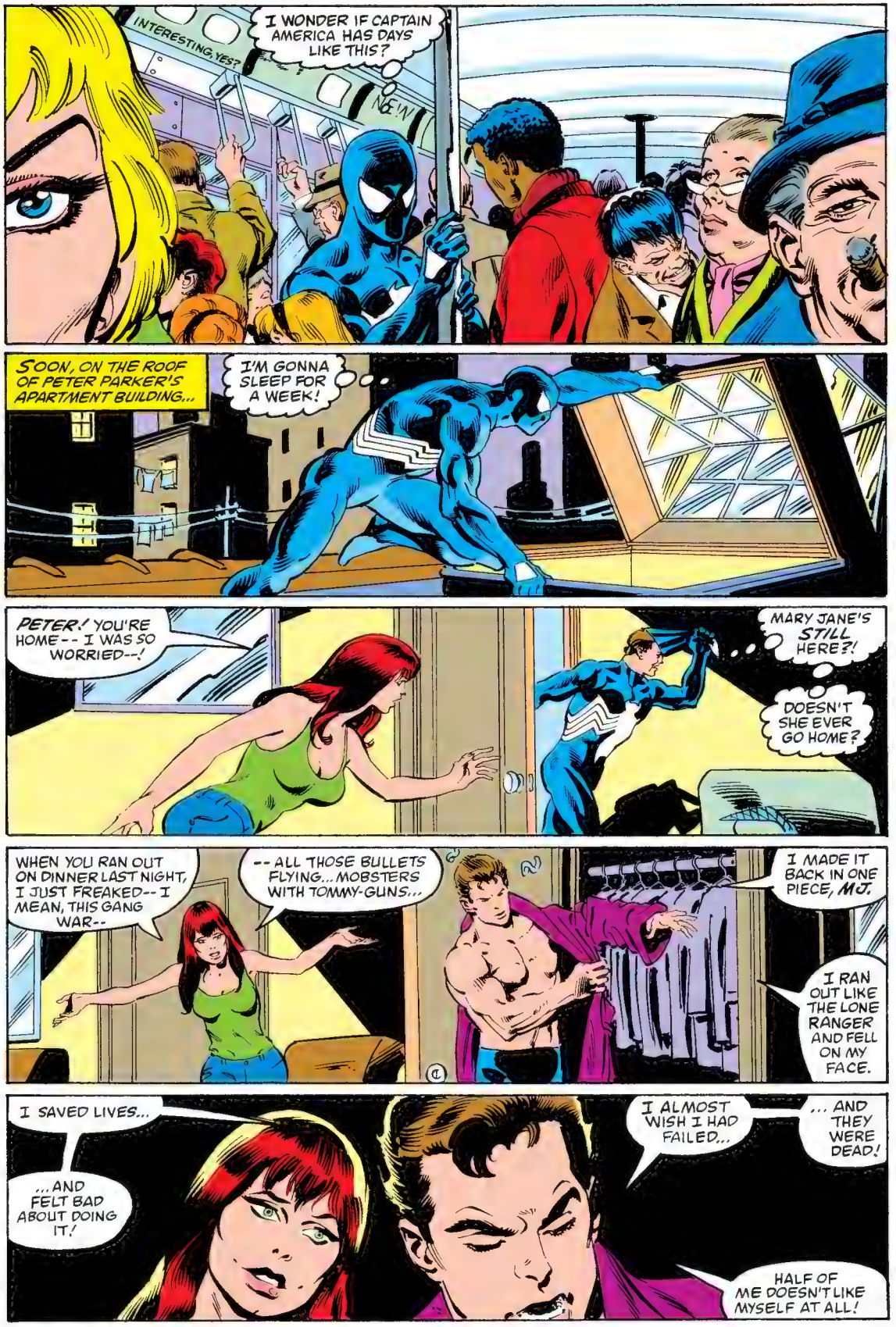
EXCELLENT, SIR! A CLEVER DIVERSION FROM THE HOB-GOBLIN AND WE'RE OUT WITH NO BLOODSHED!
NO BLOODSHED MEANING NO UNDUE MEDIA ATTENTION!
PAT HIM ON THE BACK, LATER, JOHNSTON! HALL! DRIVE!!
HA HA HA HAHAH
I DON'T NEED THIS! NOT NOW!
I'M STILL TOO WOBBLY FROM THE GAS!
DON'T MOVE, MISTER! DON'T EVEN THINK OF MOVING!
WHAT HAPPENED?! HE MOVED SO FAST--!
THWIPP!
I HATE TO DO THIS--BUT I HAVE TO GO!
GEE, THAT WAS...
...EASY...
UH-OH!
POLICE CHOPPER!
...AND IT'S A LONNNNG WAY DOWN!
...AND I'M REALLY ZONKED!
WELL...
"...YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE!"
HEY--! WHAT'S HE--?!

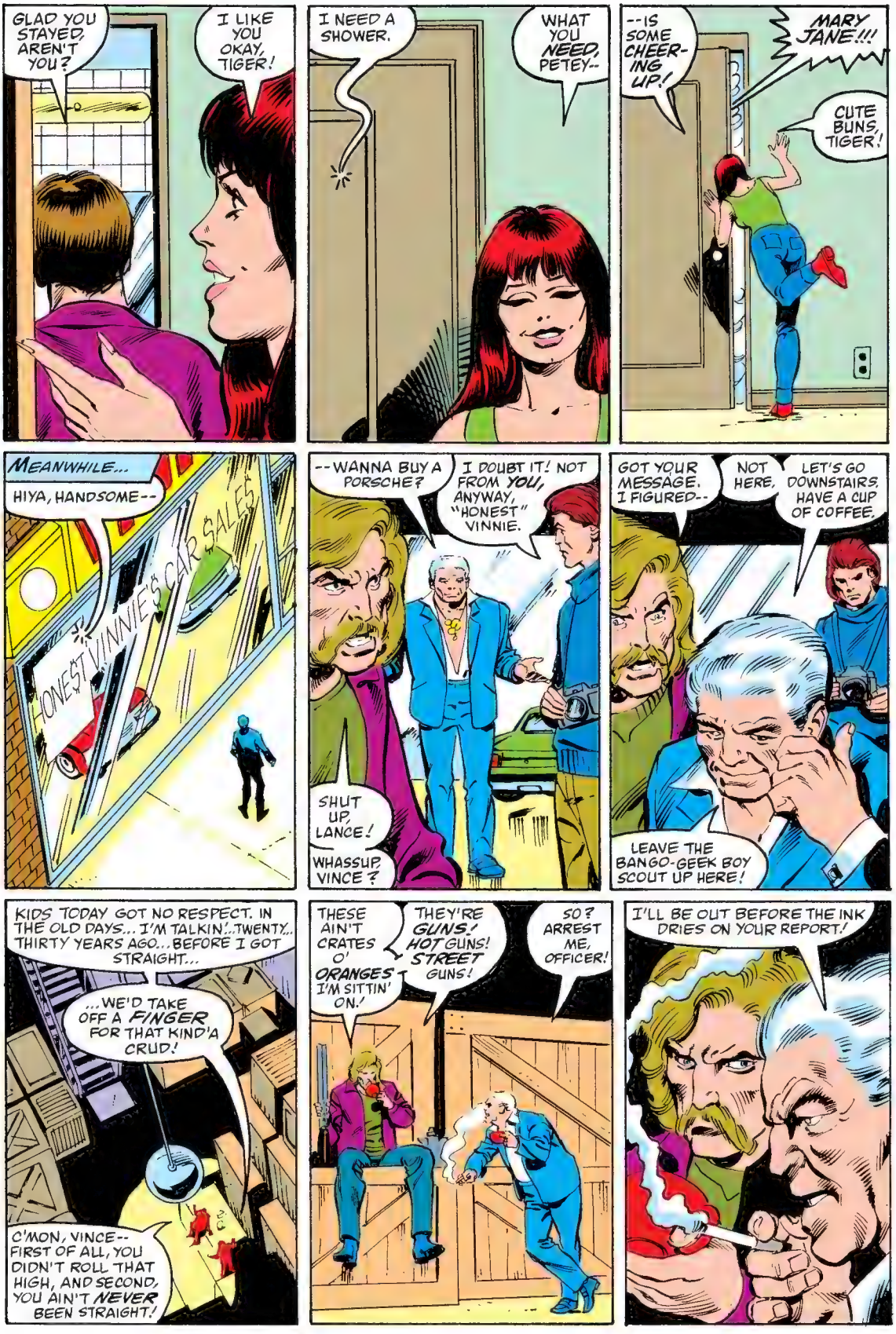
...DOING?
UH... GUS?
WHAT FORM DO WE USE TO REPORT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
WHO SAID WE WERE GONNA REPORT IT?
THE PUNISHER REALLY PACKS A WALLOP! I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME SOMEONE DANCED ME AROUND THE BLOCK LIKE THAT!
...AND, WORST OF ALL, I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF HE WASN'T RIGHT ALL ALONG!
I MEAN, THIS GANG WAR'S COSTING A LOT OF INNOCENT LIVES! THE HEADS OF THE CITY'S MAJOR GANGS WERE ALL TOGETHER IN THE KINGPIN'S OFFICES!
ONE SHOT FROM THE PUNISHER'S BAZOOKA MIGHT'VE BROUGHT THIS WAR TO AN END! UNTOLD NUMBERS OF INNOCENTS COULD'VE BEEN SAVED!
THWIPP!
EXCEPT I HAD TO PLAY GOOD GUY AND LEAP RIGHT IN...
...THUS PROLONGING THE WAR I SWORE TO END!


THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH ME--I TAKE THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON MY SHOULDERS...
...AND THEN I TRY TO SOLVE EVERY-THING!
BUT IS IT RIGHT TO SAVE MURDERERS FROM A PSYCHO-KILLER?
REALLY WHIPPED! BETTER REST UP HERE A MINUTE BEFORE I HEAD HOME!
MORNING...
PRECINCT
PRECINCT
BANION? BANNER--?
C'MON, SARGE--YOU DO THIS EVERY TIME I COME HERE! IT'S BANNON! LANCE BANNON OF THE DAILY BUGLE!
AND YOU KNOW WHY I GIVE YOU A HARD TIME, LANCE BANNON?
IT'S 'CUZ I HATE BEIN' CALLED "SARGE"!
SERGEANT TORK--PLEASE SLOW DOWN!
YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE! WHAT ABOUT THESE PERSONNEL REPORTS YOU HAVE TO EVALUATE?
STACK 'EM IN THE MEN'S ROOM! STALL "A"!
I GOT AN ERRAND TO RUN!
SERGEANT--YOU'RE HEAD OF PERSONNEL HERE! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE--
--OR DRESS LIKE I WANNA, OR WEAR MY HAIR LONG, RIGHT?
SERGEANT--
C'MON, ANITA! CUT ME SOME SLACK!
I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR. COVER FOR ME.
YOU'RE LATE!
SERGEANT, PLEASE--
I HAD TO DANCE WITH KRESCHLER! AGAIN!
MY HEART BLEEDS, BANNON!
SERGEANT--

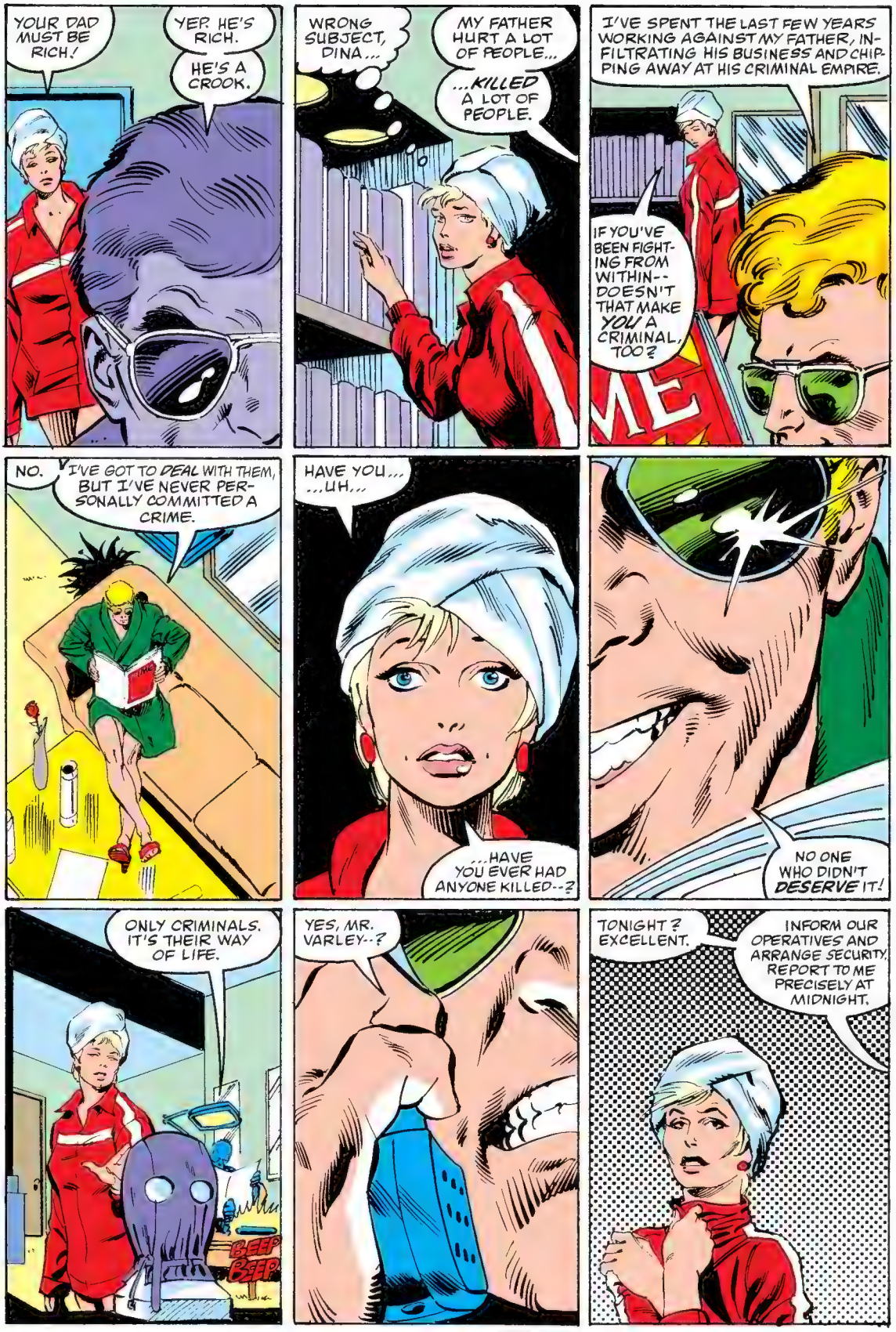
I CAN'T KEEP COVERING FOR YOU!
SURE YOU CAN!
I LOVE YOU, ANITA!
C'MON, KID! LET'S ROLL!
WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK...
DAILY BUGLE
BAZOOKA ATTACK ON KING-PIN'S HEAD-QUARTERS
GOT A WRENCH?
YOU TALKING TO ME?
ANYBODY ELSE SITTING ON THIS BENCH? I'VE GOT A FLAT TIRE.
YEAH. I GOT A WRENCH. HELP YOURSELF.
MY NAME'S DINA.
MACHO SILENCIO, HUH? OKAY.
I GO TO COLUMBIA. I LIKE SUSHI.
I THINK YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD AT THIS.

YOU ALWAYS CARRY A GUN IN YOUR SADDLEBAG?
ONLY WHEN I'M OUT TO MUG SOMEBODY!
BUGLE
BAZOOKA ATTAC KING-PIN'S HEAD-TERS
NEXT QUESTION.
IS YOUR SENSE OF CHIVALRY BEING THREATENED BY MY FIXING MY OWN BIKE WHILE YOU SIT IDLY BY?
LOOK, DINA...
DAILY BU
TACK KING-PIN'S HEAD-TER
...I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED IN THIS ROLE-PLAYING COME-ON STUFF.
OMIGOSH.
GUESS THAT MEANS I'M BUYING THE COFFEE, HUH?
SOON...
IT'LL TAKE TIME, AND A LOT OF DEDICATION, BUT IT CAN HAPPEN!
...I THINK AS FAR AS THIS GANG WAR GOES, THAT ONE MAN, WORKING FROM THE INSIDE CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF ANGER BOTTLED UP INSIDE THERE! I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT...
Breakfast 99¢ SPECIAL
...BUT YOU'RE TAKING ALL THIS GANG WAR STUFF PRETTY SERIOUSLY.
LET ME ASK YOU... THIS THEORY OF YOURS...
...WHAT WOULD KEEP A GUY WORKING INSIDE THAT LONG FROM, IN FACT BECOMING A CRIMINAL?
STRENGTH OF CHARACTER.
TAKE ME TO YOUR PLACE.
MEANWHILE...
OH, NO! THAT SMELL... THE COLD AIR...
I DIDN'T SPEND THE NIGHT IN AN ALLEY... DID I?
GREAT! NEARLY ELEVEN HOURS' SLEEP AND I'M STILL FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THE PUNISHER'S GAS!
TOO ZONKED FOR WEBSLINGING... BETTER CATCH A TAXI...
...IN NEW YORK...
...IN MIDTOWN...
...DRESSED LIKE THIS...


INTERESTING, YES?
I WONDER IF CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS DAYS LIKE THIS?
NEIN
SOON, ON THE ROOF OF PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT BUILDING...
I'M GONNA SLEEP FOR A WEEK!
PETER! YOU'RE HOME-- I WAS SO WORRIED--!
MARY JANE'S STILL HERE?!
DOESN'T SHE EVER GO HOME?
WHEN YOU RAN OUT ON DINNER LAST NIGHT, I JUST FREAKED-- I MEAN, THIS GANG WAR--
-- ALL THOSE BULLETS FLYING... MOBSTERS WITH TOMMY-GUNS...
I MADE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE, MJ.
I RAN OUT LIKE THE LONE RANGER AND FELL ON MY FACE.
I SAVED LIVES...
...AND FELT BAD ABOUT DOING IT!
I ALMOST WISH I HAD FAILED...
... AND THEY WERE DEAD!
HALF OF ME DOESN'T LIKE MYSELF AT ALL!

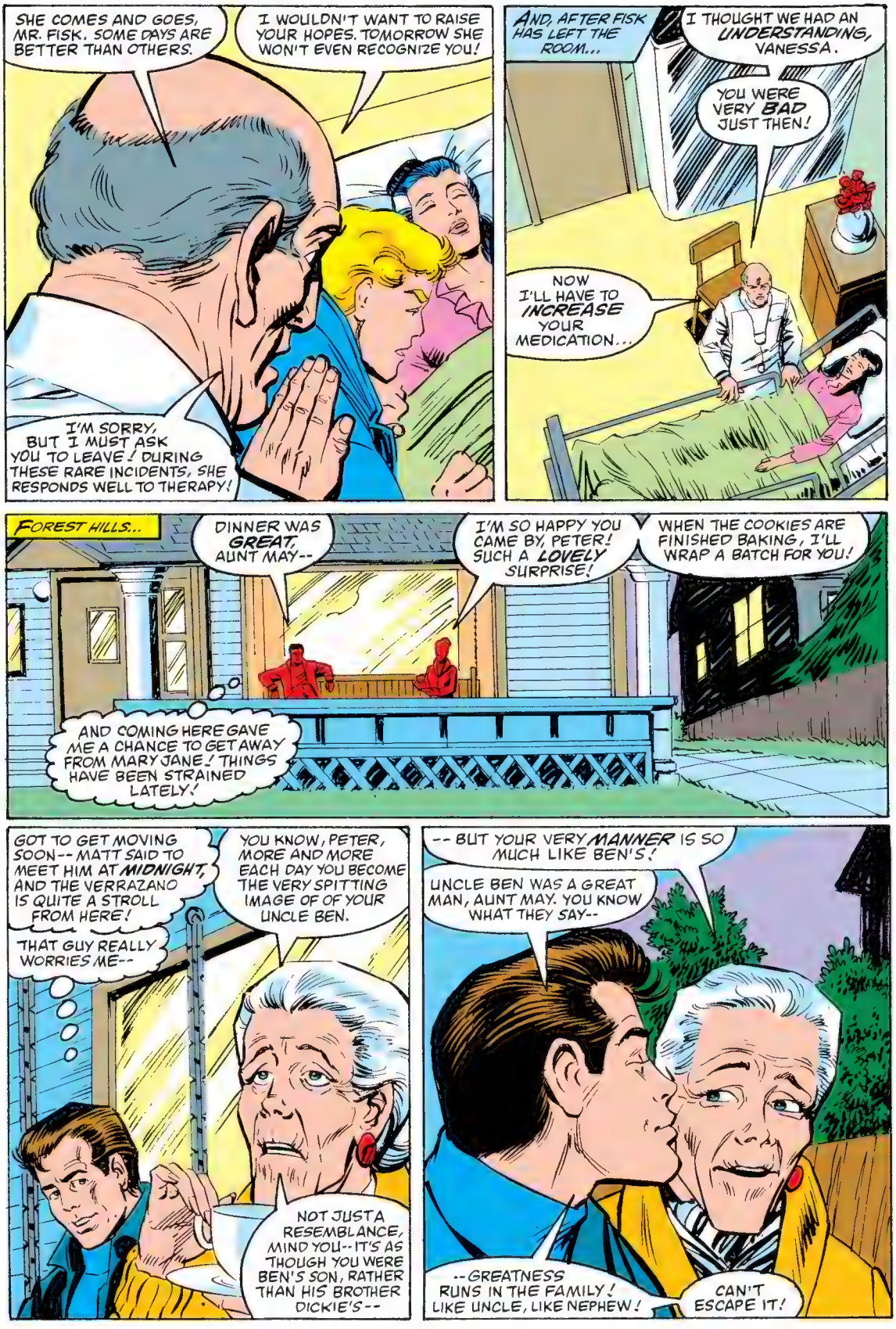

GLAD YOU STAYED, AREN'T YOU?
I LIKE YOU OKAY, TIGER!
I NEED A SHOWER.
WHAT YOU NEED, PETEY--
--IS SOME CHEERING UP!
MARY JANE!!!
CUTE BUNS, TIGER!
MEANWHILE...
HIYA, HANDSOME--
HONEST VINNIE'S CAR SALES
--WANNA BUY A PORSCHE?
I DOUBT IT! NOT FROM YOU, ANYWAY, "HONEST" VINNIE.
SHUT UP, LANCE!
WHASSUP, VINCE?
GOT YOUR MESSAGE. I FIGURED--
NOT HERE,
LET'S GO DOWNSTAIRS. HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE.
LEAVE THE BANGO-GEEK BOY SCOUT UP HERE!
KIDS TODAY GOT NO RESPECT. IN THE OLD DAYS... I'M TALKIN'...TWENTY... THIRTY YEARS AGO... BEFORE I GOT STRAIGHT...
...WE'D TAKE OFF A FINGER FOR THAT KIND'A CRUD!
C'MON, VINCE-- FIRST OF ALL, YOU DIDN'T ROLL THAT HIGH, AND SECOND, YOU AIN'T NEVER BEEN STRAIGHT!
THESE AIN'T CRATES O' ORANGES I'M SITTIN' ON.'
THEY'RE GUNS! HOT GUNS! STREET GUNS!
SO? ARREST ME, OFFICER!
I'LL BE OUT BEFORE THE INK DRIES ON YOUR REPORT.

LOOK, TORK, YOU'RE A NICE KID. I LIKE YOU. I'M JUST A GUY TRYIN' TO MAKE AN HONEST LIVING. YEAH, I DEAL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW SOMETIMES... BUT I'M NOT A SLIMEBALL LIKE YOUR BOY UP-STAIRS. THIS GANG WAR... THIS KILLING OF KIDS AND WOMEN... IT STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN!
THOSE TRIGGER-HAPPY SLAM-BOYS HAVE GOTTA BE STOPPED!
I KNOW THERE'S A MEET TONIGHT. JACKSON HEIGHTS. MIDNIGHT. THE ROSE -- Y'KNOW... THAT WEIRD KID WITH THE PURPLE MASK... IS GONNA HAVE A SIT-DOWN WITH THE LEADER OF THE NEW BLUE BOY GANG. I WANTCHA TO SHOOT 'EM ALL DEAD, TORK!
I'M A COP, VINNIE! I CAN'T JUST SHOOT PEOPLE!
NOT UNLESS I MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT...
TRUST ME, KID! THESE GUYS DON'T WANT A SIT-DOWN! THEY DON'T WANT A TREATY! THESE MANIACS GET THEIR KICKS SHOOTING PEOPLE!
WATCH YOUR BUTT, KID! YOU'RE A GOOD COP. I HATE YOUR GUTS.
TONIGHT?! WHY TONIGHT?!
I'VE GOT PLANS FOR TONIGHT! I CAN'T GO!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS PESTERS ME FOR LEADS, LANCE! YOU WANT EXCLUSIVE PICTURES -- I JUST DROPPED A BIG LEAD IN YOUR LAP!
I'M SURE WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT GOIN' TONIGHT CAN WAIT!
LATER, IN GREENWICH VILLAGE...
GOTTA PLAN MY NEXT MOVE CAREFULLY... AFTER ALL, I DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE ONE OF THEM!
NEVER PLANNED ON THIS GANG WAR, THOUGH. DUMB MOVE FOR ME. AFTER ALL, I WAS THE GUY WHO HAD ALL THE ANGLES COVERED...
NOW, THERE'S ALL THIS OPEN WARFARE IN THE STREETS... LOTS OF PEOPLE GETTING WASTED IN THE CROSS-FIRE! THIS REALLY STINKS!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT... BUT I REFUSE TO LET MYSELF GET DRAGGED DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL... LIKE MY FATHER...
TIME
HEY, SPORT -- THIS LOFT IS OUTRAGEOUS!
HOW CAN YOU AFFORD IT?!

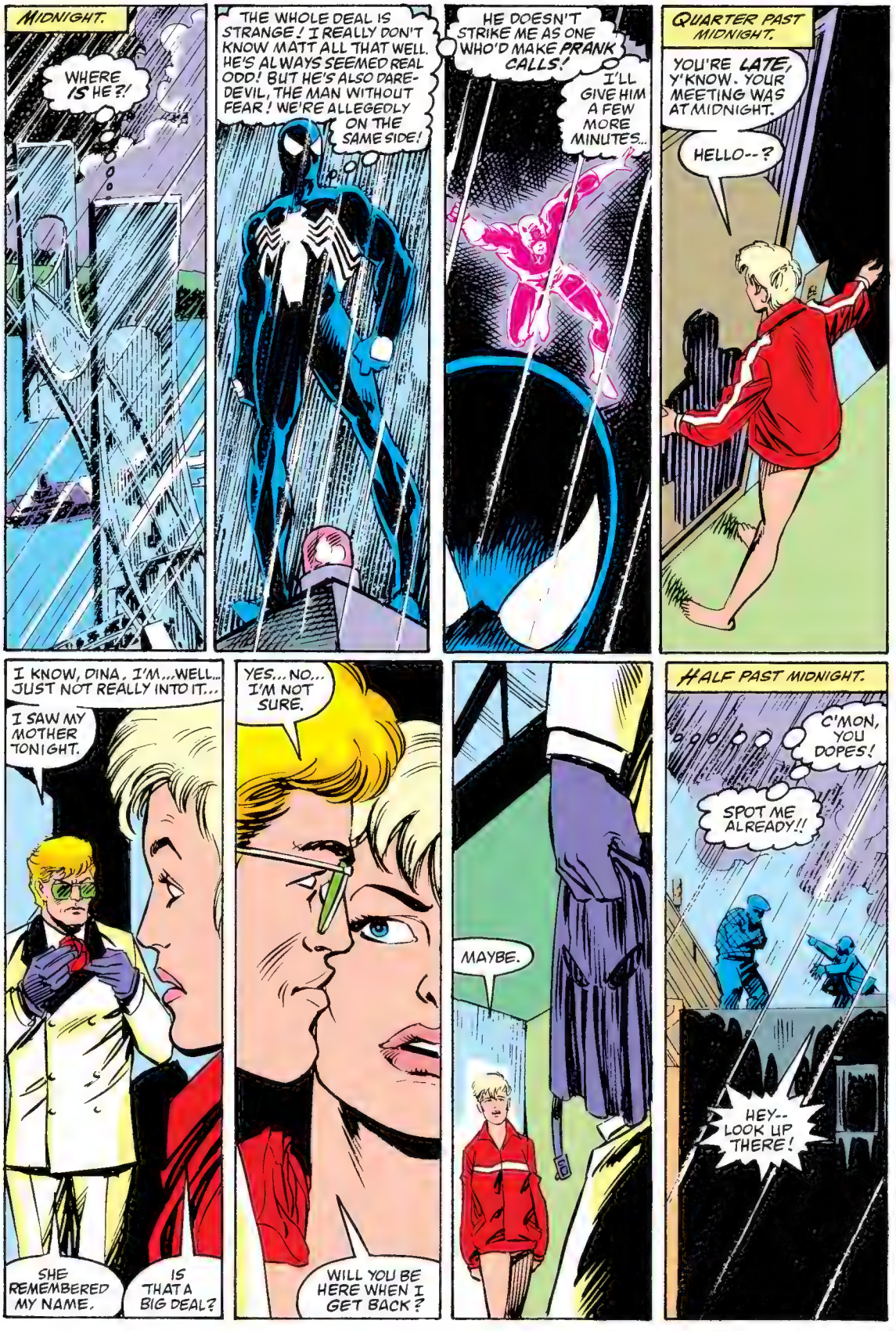

YOUR DAD MUST BE RICH!
YEP. HE'S RICH.
HE'S A CROOK.
WRONG SUBJECT, DINA...
MY FATHER HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE...
...KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE.
I'VE SPENT THE LAST FEW YEARS WORKING AGAINST MY FATHER, INFILTRATING HIS BUSINESS AND CHIPPING AWAY AT HIS CRIMINAL EMPIRE.
IF YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING FROM WITHIN--DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU A CRIMINAL, TOO?
NO.
I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THEM, BUT I'VE NEVER PERSONALLY COMMITTED A CRIME.
HAVE YOU... ...UH...
...HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANYONE KILLED--?
NO ONE WHO DIDN'T DESERVE IT!
ONLY CRIMINALS. IT'S THEIR WAY OF LIFE.
BEEP BEEP
YES, MR. VARLEY--?
TONIGHT? EXCELLENT.
INFORM OUR OPERATIVES AND ARRANGE SECURITY. REPORT TO ME PRECISELY AT MIDNIGHT.

AND, IN PETER PARKER'S CHELSEA APARTMENT...
ZZZ ZZZ!
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY--MARY JANE! WEIRD CATCHING YOU AT PARKER'S PLACE!
THE GUY BEING SUCH A ZERO AND ALL...
KEEP IT DOWN, LANCE-- PETE'S ASLEEP!
THAT'S GOOD, 'CAUSE OL' WONDER BOY'S GONNA NEED THE Z'S. I'VE GOT A HOT TIP FOR HIM!
THERE'S A BIG GANGLAND MEET GOING DOWN TONIGHT, AND I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS!
DROPPING ASSIGNMENTS LIKE THIS ISN'T MY STYLE-- I WORK HARD TO GET LITTLE TIPS LIKE THIS!
BUT I'M LOCKED INTO SOMETHING TONIGHT THAT I JUST CAN'T GET OUT OF! AND SOMEBODY OUGHTA BE AT THE MEET!
ZZZZ--
RRRIIING!
H'LO--?
PETER, IT'S MATT. MATT MURDOCK. I NEED TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY.
HUH?!
MEET ME AT MIDNIGHT ATOP THE VERAZANO NARROWS BRIDGE. COME ALONE.
CLICKK!
IS HE KIDDING--?
HERE'S THE ADDRESS--
OKAY, OKAY! I'LL GIVE IT TO HIM!
WHO WAS THAT ON THE PHONE?
SOME NUT!
WHO... WHO WAS AT THE DOOR?
DITTO.
BACK TO SLEEP, TIGER!
GOOD IDEA.

STILL LATER, IN MIDTOWN...
THE ARRANGER IS ANNOYED WITH YOUR ODD NOCTURNAL VISITING RITUALS.
THE ARRANGER IS A SPINELESS YES-MAN, KLINGMAN! JUST LIKE YOU!
THAT I AM ABOUT TO VISIT MY MOTHER TELLS ME MY DEAR FATHER HAS OKAYED IT!
PRESENTLY...
STILL NO CHANGE! WHAT HAS MY FATHER DONE TO HER? SHE WAS SO SPECIAL...
...SO STRONG...
NOW SHE JUST LIES THERE!
I MET A GIRL TODAY, MOTHER. YOU'D LIKE HER. SHE HAS YOUR STRENGTH.
SHE'S NOT AFRAID OF WHO I AM. OF WHAT WILL SOON GO DOWN BETWEEN FATHER AND ME.
HER NAME IS DINA, AND SHE--
YOUR NAME... IS RICHARD.
YOU ARE MY SON... AREN'T YOU--?
RICHARD
SHE... SHE SPOKE! SHE REMEMBERED!
SHE'S COMING OUT OF HER CATATONIA!


SHE COMES AND GOES, MR. FISK. SOME DAYS ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO RAISE YOUR HOPES. TOMORROW SHE WON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU!
I'M SORRY, BUT I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE! DURING THESE RARE INCIDENTS, SHE RESPONDS WELL TO THERAPY!
AND, AFTER FISK HAS LEFT THE ROOM...
I THOUGHT WE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING, VANESSA.
YOU WERE VERY BAD JUST THEN!
NOW I'LL HAVE TO INCREASE YOUR MEDICATION...
FOREST HILLS...
DINNER WAS GREAT, AUNT MAY--
I'M SO HAPPY YOU CAME BY, PETER! SUCH A LOVELY SURPRISE!
WHEN THE COOKIES ARE FINISHED BAKING, I'LL WRAP A BATCH FOR YOU!
AND COMING HERE GAVE ME A CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM MARY JANE! THINGS HAVE BEEN STRAINED LATELY!
GOT TO GET MOVING SOON-- MATT SAID TO MEET HIM AT MIDNIGHT, AND THE VERRAZANO IS QUITE A STROLL FROM HERE!
THAT GUY REALLY WORRIES ME--
YOU KNOW, PETER, MORE AND MORE EACH DAY YOU BECOME THE VERY SPITTING IMAGE OF OF YOUR UNCLE BEN.
NOT JUST A RESEMBLANCE, MIND YOU-- IT'S AS THOUGH YOU WERE BEN'S SON, RATHER THAN HIS BROTHER DICKIE'S--
-- BUT YOUR VERY MANNER IS SO MUCH LIKE BEN'S!
UNCLE BEN WAS A GREAT MAN, AUNT MAY. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--
--GREATNESS RUNS IN THE FAMILY! LIKE UNCLE, LIKE NEPHEW!
CAN'T ESCAPE IT!

QUARTER TO MIDNIGHT.
THIS REALLY BITES!
STAKIN' OUT THAT BOWLING ALLEY--WHERE THE MEET'S SUPPOSED TO GO DOWN, YOU GUYS LISTENIN' TO ME--?
YEAH, TORK!
BY THE BY--NICE OF YOU TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT LIKE THE REST OF US.
YOU KIDDING? I HOPE THEY SEE ME PRANCIN' AROUND UP HERE!
I HOPE THEY REALIZE THERE'RE FIFTY NEW YORK COPS PLANTED ALL OVER THIS BLOCK!
I HOPE THEY CALL IT OFF!
I HOPE I CAN GO HOME!
GOOD FOR YOU!
THE REST OF US, HOWEVER, WANNA MAKE A BUST TONIGHT--
HOLD IT! EVERYBODY --STAY COOL!
THE ADVANCE-SECURITY TEAM'S ARRIVING!
IT'S SHOWTIME!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!
CRASH
BOWLING AL
COCKTAIL LOUNGE
GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN! I AM THE HOBGOBLIN!
THE ROSE, MY BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, HAS ENTERED INTO A JOINT AGREEMENT WITH THE KINGPIN'S ARRANGER!
MY COLLEAGUE--JACK O'LANTERN--REPRESENTS THE KINGPIN'S SECURITY INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS!
HIYA.
THE ROSE WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY WITH THE INTENTION OF BARGAINING IN GOOD FAITH! BE WARNED, HOWEVER--
--AT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF TREACHERY, WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KILL EVERY MAN IN THIS ROOM!
DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER--?


MIDNIGHT.
WHERE IS HE?!
THE WHOLE DEAL IS STRANGE! I REALLY DON'T KNOW MATT ALL THAT WELL. HE'S ALWAYS SEEMED REAL ODD! BUT HE'S ALSO DARE-DEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR! WE'RE ALLEGEDLY ON THE SAME SIDE!
HE DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS ONE WHO'D MAKE PRANK CALLS!
I'LL GIVE HIM A FEW MORE MINUTES...
QUARTER PAST MIDNIGHT.
YOU'RE LATE, Y'KNOW. YOUR MEETING WAS AT MIDNIGHT.
HELLO--?
I KNOW, DINA. I'M...WELL... JUST NOT REALLY INTO IT...
I SAW MY MOTHER TONIGHT.
SHE REMEMBERED MY NAME.
IS THAT A BIG DEAL?
YES... NO... I'M NOT SURE.
WILL YOU BE HERE WHEN I GET BACK?
MAYBE.
HALF PAST MIDNIGHT.
C'MON, YOU DOPES!
SPOT ME ALREADY!!
HEY-- LOOK UP THERE!

ALL RIGHT! THEY'VE SPOTTED ME!!
NYAH NYAH--!! YA BIG GOONS!!
OOGA OOGA!!
GO HOME! YOU KNOW THERE ARE COPS HERE! GEEZ--HOW THICK ARE THESE GUYS?!
COP.
DEAD COP.
YEAH.
WOW.
THEY'RE PRETTY THICK!
BBBAAADOOM!
ALL UNITS-- ROLL!
THESE MANIACS JUST BLEW UP THE EL-- FIRE'S SPREADING!!
EVERYBODY-- MOVE IN!!

QUARTER TO ONE. DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN.
MARY JANE--ANYBODY NAMED "MATT" CALL? WHAT--?!
OH, PETER--IT'S TERRIBLE! HUGE EXPLOSIONS... FIRES... NOW GUNFIGHTS BETWEEN THE GANGSTERS!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT--LANCE BANNON CAME BY HERE WITH A TIP ABOUT THIS MEETING... IN JACKSON HEIGHTS...
--I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE MESSAGE!!
AND, NOW LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED!!
TEN TO ONE.
HI!
I NEED A LIFT!
I CAN HELP STOP THE FIGHTING IN JACKSON HEIGHTS!
I'VE GOT TO GET THERE AS FAST AS I--
GET OFF MY UNIT, MISTER, OR I'LL LOCK YOU UP!
ONE O'CLOCK.
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, MR. HALL?
POLICE ACTIVITY, ROSE--THEY'RE COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK--SEALING OFF THE STREETS AROUND US!
WE'D BEST PROCEED ON FOOT! WITHDRAW FROM THE SECTOR!
LET'S LEAVE THE BLUE BOYS TO ACCOUNT FOR THIS MESS!
QUARTER PAST ONE.
NOTHING TO SWING FROM! NO WAY TO GET THERE!
I'D HITCH A RIDE ON A BUS IF I KNEW HOW TO GET FROM HERE TO JACKSON HEIGHTS! FEEL SO BLASTED HELPLESS!
SO BLASTED HELPLESS--

HEY, SPIDER-MAN! IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING TO HELP--
--I'LL GET YOU THERE!
JACKSON HEIGHTS--
THIS IS GETTIN' PRETTY THICK, HOBBY!
THE BLUE BOYS AND THE COPS ARE FIRING AT US!
BLEEP!
YES, ROSE, WHAT IS IT?
HOBGOBLIN--GET OVER HERE NOW! WE'RE PINNED BY POLICE AND THE--
BLAM BLAM
YEEEARGH!
I DO NOT LIKE THAT TONE OF VOICE YOU'RE USING, ROSE! DO NOT FORGET WE ARE PARTNERS IN THIS ENDEAVOR!
EQUALS! I AM NOT YOUR LACKEY!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS HOBGOBLIN GUY--!
ALL THIS LEAD FLYIN', AND HE STOPS TO ARGUE?!
I'M... HIT...?! ME?!
THIS IS ABSURD,! TO BE GUNNED DOWN,.. BY COMMON THIEVES... FORCED TO RUN AWAY,.. BROUGHT DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL...
BLAM
BLAM
GOT TO MOVE,.. GET TO A DOCTOR!
COME, JACK O'LANTERN, I THINK I MUST INDEED RESCUE MY HAPLESS PARTNER--SO I CAN TEACH HIM TO TEMPER HIS ANGER--EH?
SPIDER-MAN!!
WA-ROOO
WA-ROO
HERE'S OUR CHANCE, JACK O' LANTERN!
OUR CHANCE?! OUR CHANCE FOR WHAT?!
TO KILL THE ACCURSED ARACHNID!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!

OF COURSE YOU'RE CRAZY! AND I'M CRAZY FOR BEING WITH YOU!
SPIDER-MAN'S ONE OF THE TOUGHEST GUYS AROUND! I DON'T TAKE HIM ON SOLO FOR ANYBODY!
NOW, WEB-SLINGER, YOU SHALL SEE WHO IS TRULY YOUR BETTER!
Y'KNOW, IT'S NEVER BEEN MORE CLEAR THAT YOU'RE NOT FLASH THOMPSON BENEATH THAT MASK!
FLASH HAD SOME ROTTEN LUCK IN HIS TIME--
--BUT YOU-- WHOEVER YOU MAY BE--YOU'RE SICK!
THWUMP!
LOOK AROUND YOU, HOBGOBLIN! THE FIRE'S SPREAD ALL OVER THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
INNOCENTS ARE SUFFERING! THEY NEED HELP!
FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO FIGHT!
I'M GONNA HELP THOSE PEOPLE! IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME THAT BAD, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
THE HOBGOBLIN IS CUTTING OUT ON ME! HE'S LEAVING ME TO DIE!
WHO NEEDS HIM! I CAN STILL SAVE MYSELF!
ANOTHER BLOCK AND I'M--
--GONE,
A POLICE OFFICER!

A YOUNG OFFICER.
F... FREEZE!
A YOUNG OFFICER WHOSE ONLY JOB WAS TO KEEP TRAFFIC AWAY FROM THE WAR ZONE!
PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
A YOUNG OFFICER WHO NOW CAN END RICHARD FISK'S DREAM.
HERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
I'M GOING DOWN TO THE SECOND FLOOR! MEET ME THERE!
YOU GOT IT, WEBHEAD!
I'VE HEARD SO MANY BAD THINGS ABOUT HIM, BUT COURAGE LIKE THIS...
...WELL, I'D WANT HIM ON MY TEAM!
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS! BY ACCIDENT!
HE'S SPENT MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE CREATING THIS GUISE... BUILDING THIS EMPIRE!
A DREAM NOW SHATTERED BY A GUNMAN'S BULLETS AND A ROOKIE TRAFFIC COP.
MOVE IT, PARKER-- THERE'S STILL A LOT TO BE DONE--
GOTTA COVER THE AREA, MAKE SURE ALL THE PEOPLE ARE OUT OF THESE BURNING BUILDINGS!
RICHARD FISK WONDERS IF THIS YOUNG OFFICER IS ON HIS FATHER'S PAYROLL. EVERYONE ELSE IS.
RICHARD FISK SUSPECTS THIS ENTIRE NIGHT IS A BIZARRE DRAMA DIRECTED BY HIS FATHER.
SOMEWHERE, THE KINGPIN IS LAUGHING AT HIM.
THAT, OR THIS IS SOME WILD ACCIDENT.
THE PAIN MAKES IT HARD TO THINK.
HE IS A POWERFUL MOB CHIEFTAIN WHO HAS NEVER TECHNICALLY COMMITTED A CRIME.
HIT IT, GUYS!
HOLD HER STEADY, SPIDER-MAN--!
HE'S A WEAPONS EXPERT WHO HAS NEVER KILLED A MAN.
HE IS A YOUNG MAN OBSESSED WITH A DREAM. A DREAM THAT, FOR THE GREATER GOOD, MUST BECOME A REALITY! HE MUST NOT DIE! HE MUST NOT BE STOPPED.
BLAM

MUCH LATER...
... AND SO THE MANIC FIREFIGHT IS WINDING DOWN WITH MOST FIRES OUT OR UNDER CONTROL...
CREAK!
PETER!
I SAW YOU ON T.V.... SAVING THOSE PEOPLE... I WAS FRIGHTENED FOR YOU, BUT YOU WERE WONDERFUL!
I'M... I'M SO WIPED OUT... SO MUCH WORK... SO MANY PEOPLE--
--SAVING THE WORLD IS A TOUGH BUSINESS. ONE I NEVER WANTED TO BE IN!
BUT TONIGHT... I DON'T KNOW... SOMETHING HAPPENED! I MADE A DIFFERENCE! I ACTUALLY DID SOME GOOD TONIGHT!
AND, NOBODY DIED!
UH... PETER...
...THIS JUST IN...
... A YOUNG ROOKIE COP WAS SHOT BY A MAN WITNESSES IDENTIFY AS THE ROSE...
IT... WAS AN ACCIDENT, DINA... I MEANT ONLY TO WING HIM! I'M HIT-- IT MESSED UP MY AIM...
... IT WAS SO STUPID... HE WAS GOING TO ARREST ME... HE HUNTED ME LIKE A COMMON THIEF...
...I NEED A DOCTOR...
RICHARD FISK HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED HARMING ANY INNOCENT PEOPLE THOUGHOUT HIS CAREER AS THE ROSE.
TONIGHT HE KILLED AN INNOCENT MAN.
THEY BOTH KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

NEXT: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

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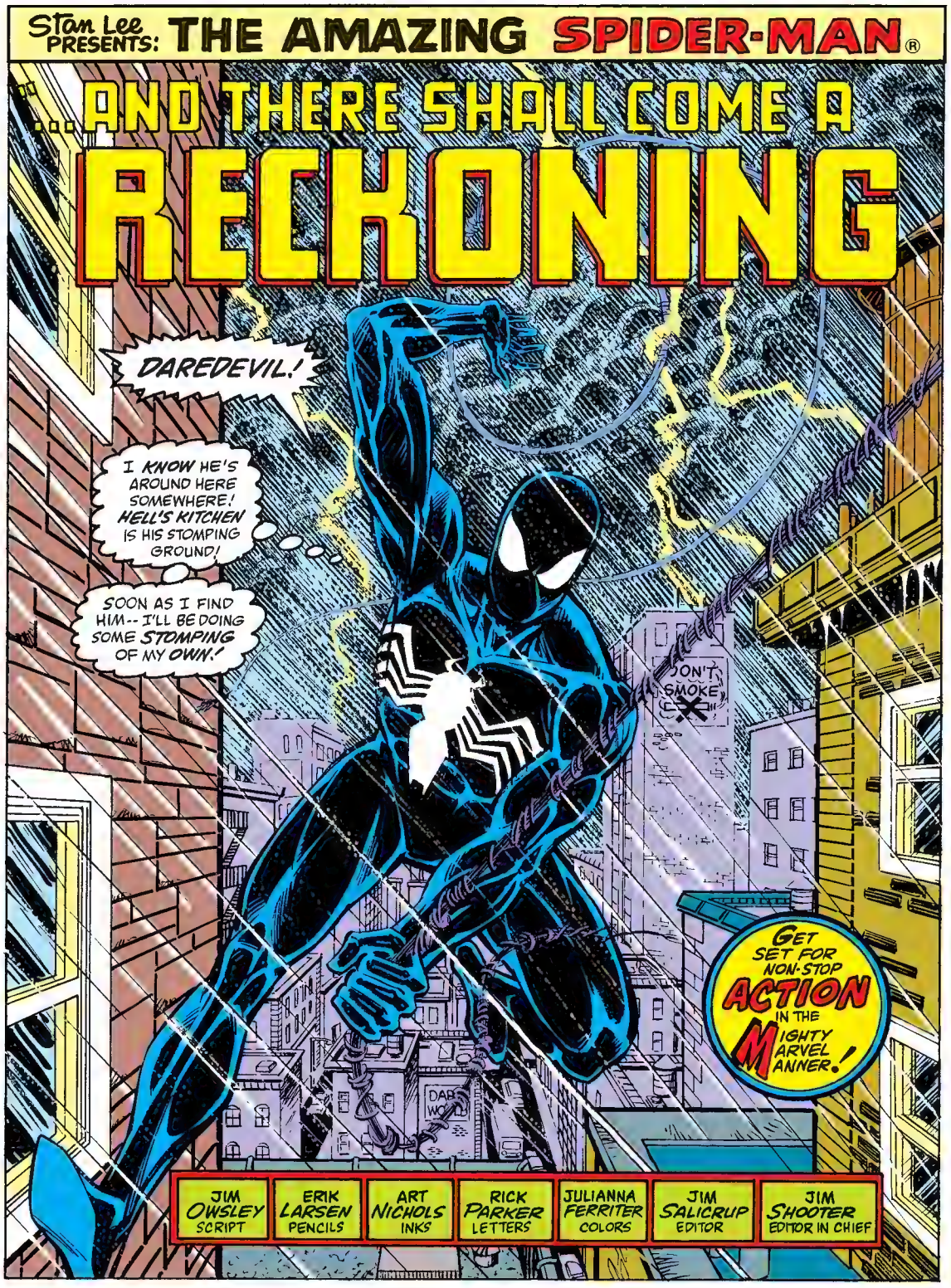
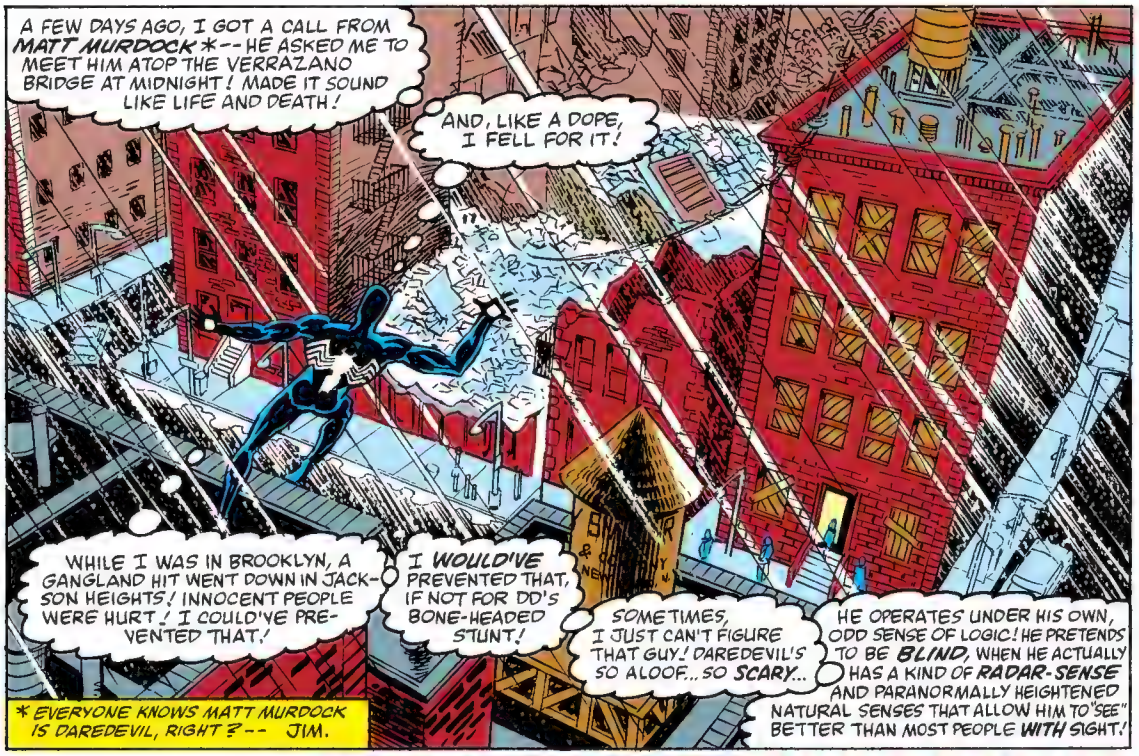
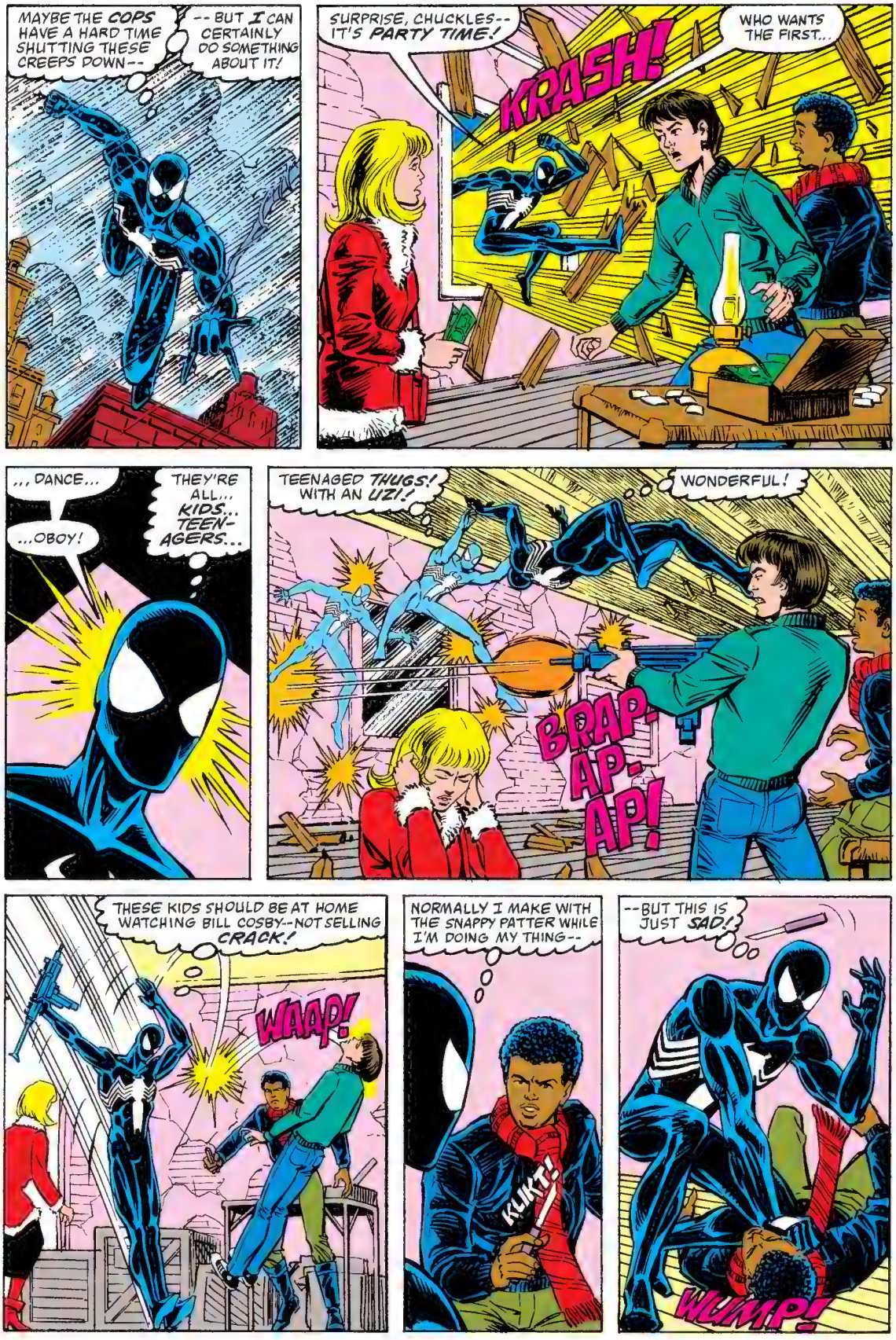
AUTHORITY
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
STAY DOWN, DAREDEVIL!®
--IF I HAVE TO GO THROUGH YOU TO STOP THE KINGPIN™--I WILL!!
GANG WAR
PART FOUR

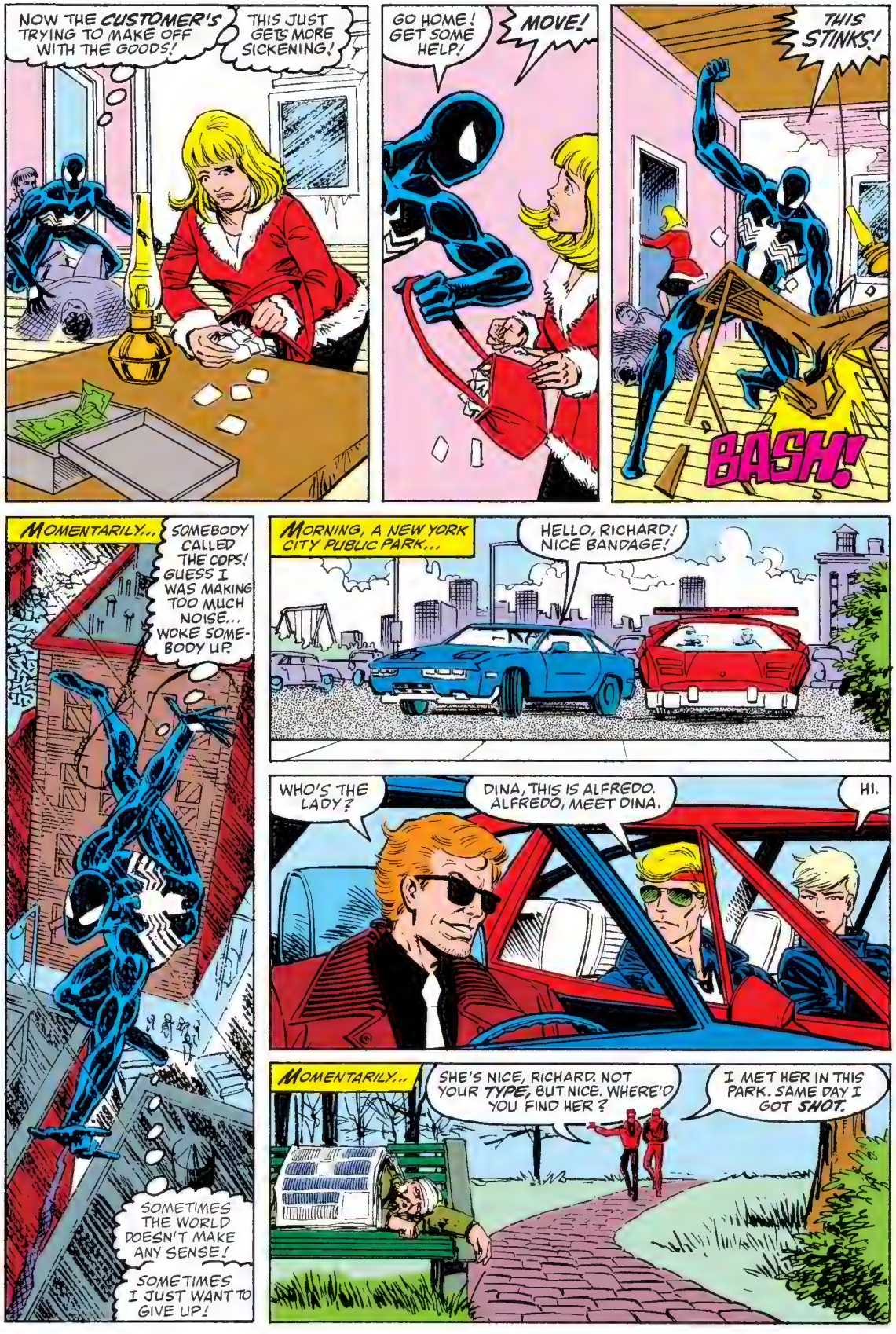

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
"...AND THERE SHALL COME A RECKONING
DAREDEVIL!
I KNOW HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! HELL'S KITCHEN IS HIS STOMPING GROUND!
SOON AS I FIND HIM-- I'LL BE DOING SOME STOMPING OF MY OWN!
DON'T SMOKE
GET SET FOR NON-STOP ACTION IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER!
JIM OWSLEY SCRIPT
ERIK LARSEN PENCILS
ART NICHOLS INKS
RICK PARKER LETTERS
JULIANNA FERRITER COLORS
JIM SALICRUP EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

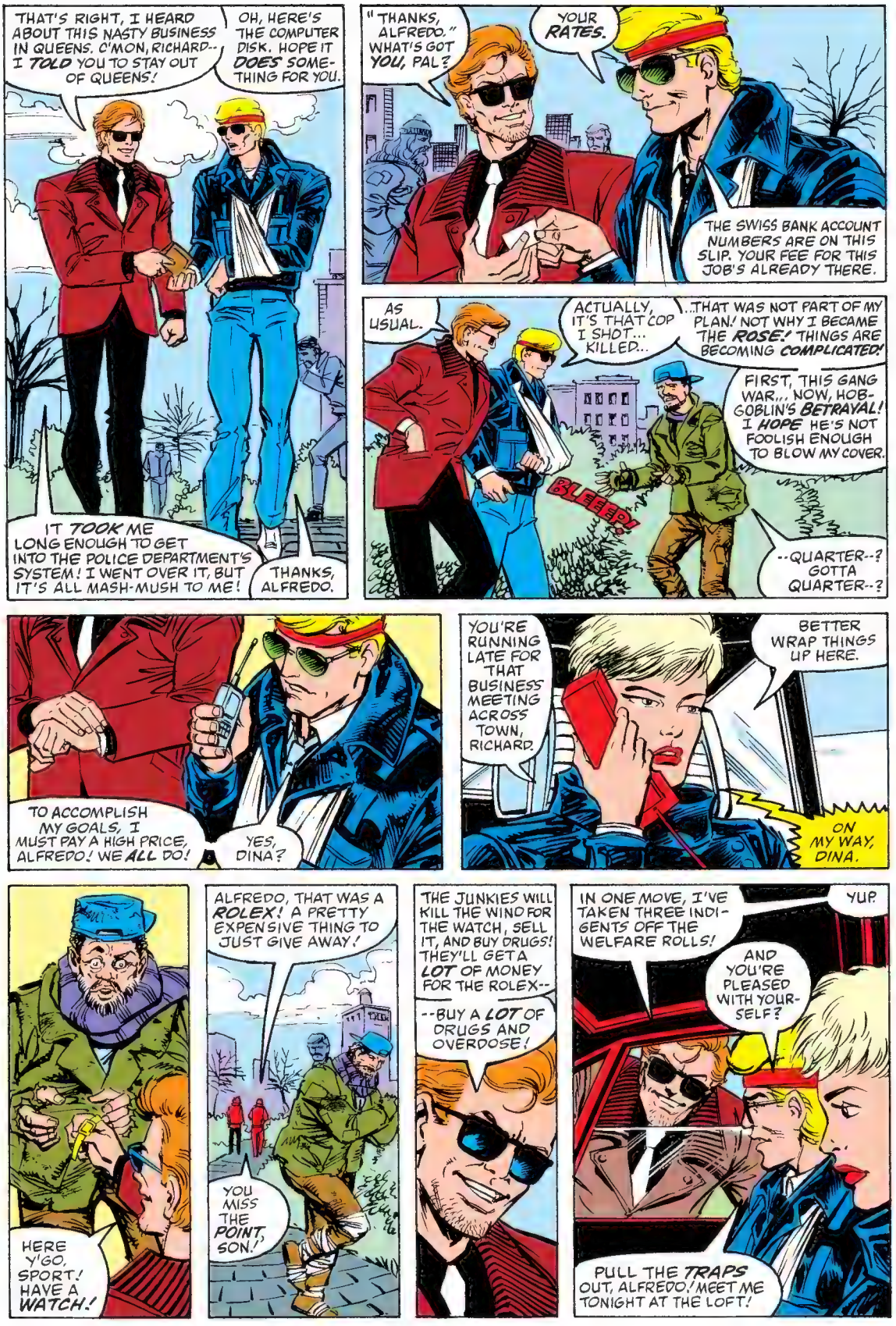

A FEW DAYS AGO, I GOT A CALL FROM MATT MURDOCK*-- HE ASKED ME TO MEET HIM ATOP THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE AT MIDNIGHT! MADE IT SOUND LIKE LIFE AND DEATH!
AND, LIKE A DOPE, I FELL FOR IT!
WHILE I WAS IN BROOKLYN, A GANGLAND HIT WENT DOWN IN JACKSON HEIGHTS! INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE HURT! I COULD'VE PREVENTED THAT!
I WOULD'VE PREVENTED THAT, IF NOT FOR DD'S BONE-HEADED STUNT!
SOMETIMES, I JUST CAN'T FIGURE THAT GUY! DAREDEVIL'S SO ALOOF... SO SCARY...
HE OPERATES UNDER HIS OWN, ODD SENSE OF LOGIC! HE PRETENDS TO BE BLIND, WHEN HE ACTUALLY HAS A KIND OF RADAR-SENSE AND PARANORMALLY HEIGHTENED NATURAL SENSES THAT ALLOW HIM TO "SEE" BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE WITH SIGHT!
* EVERYONE KNOWS MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL, RIGHT?-- JIM.

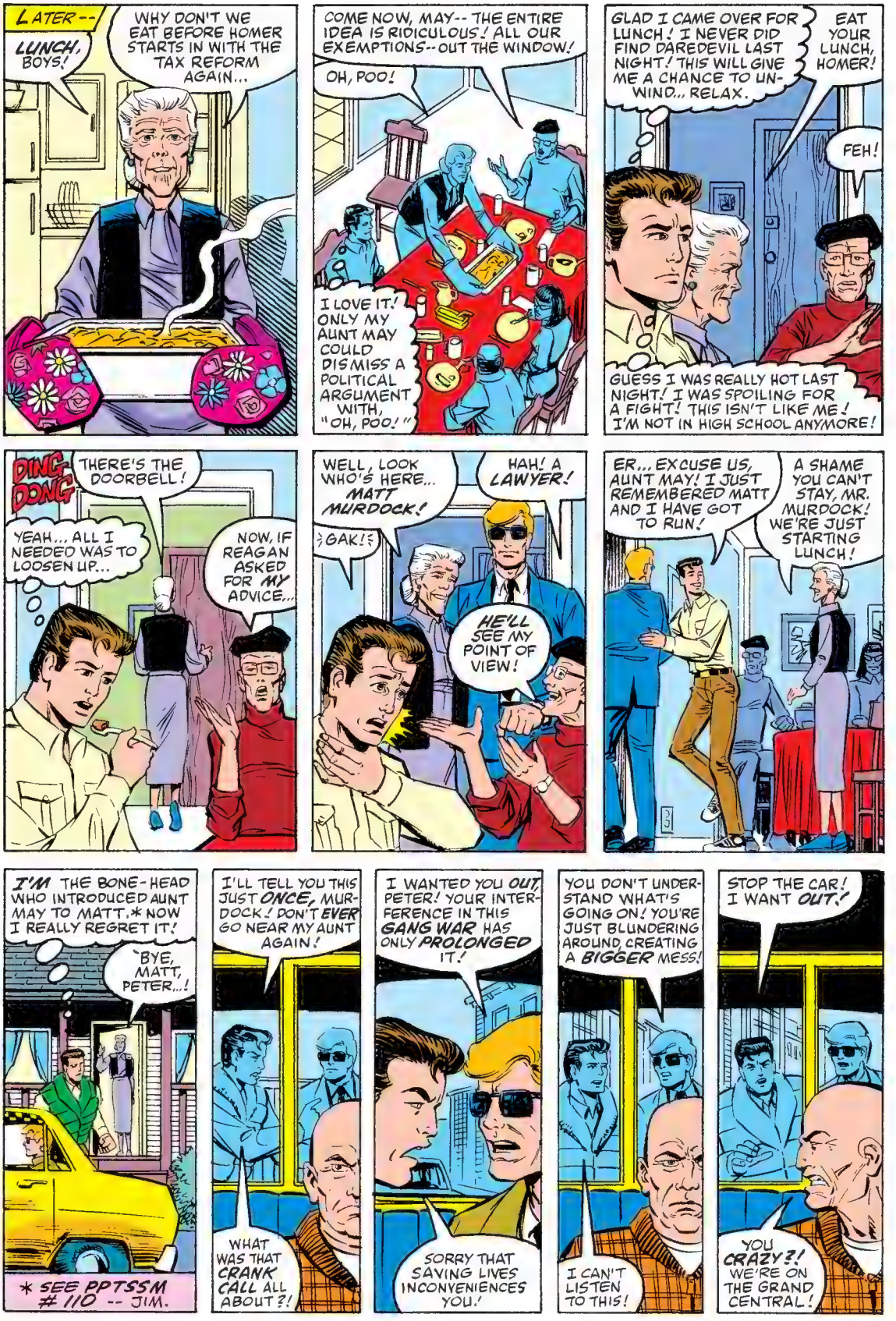
AND, SINCE WE DISCOVERED EACH OTHER'S SECRET I.D.'S DURING THAT SIN-EATER BUSINESS, * THE GUY HAS MY PHONE NUMBER!
HE, ON THE OTHER HAND, RECENTLY UNDERWENT SOME PRETTY HEAVY CHANGES, AND NOW LIVES SOMEWHERE IN HELL'S KITCHEN, ** BUT, WHERE...?
HEY--!
* PPTSSM #110,
** DAREDEVIL #233-JIM

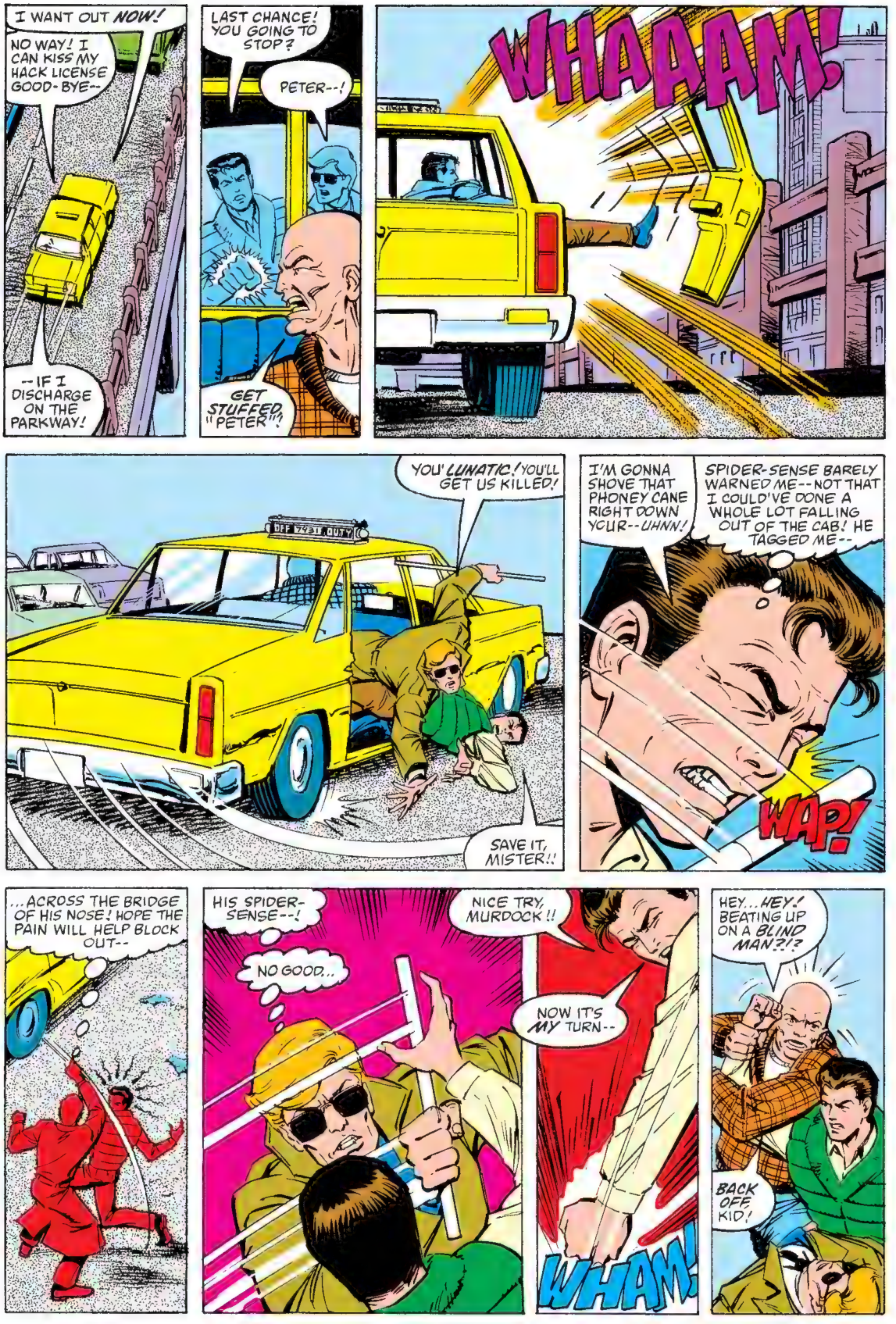
WHY ARE THOSE KIDS HANGING OUT IN FRONT OF THAT ABANDONED BUILDING?
SOME OF THEM GOING IN AND OUT... OH, RATS! WAKE UP, WEBHEAD!
THAT'S A DRUG "SPOT"-- A PLACE WHERE ILLEGAL DRUGS ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD!
SOLD TO... KIDS?!
SOME SLIME-BALL'S IN THERE DEALING DIRT TO THOSE TEENAGERS! WELL, THAT STINKS!

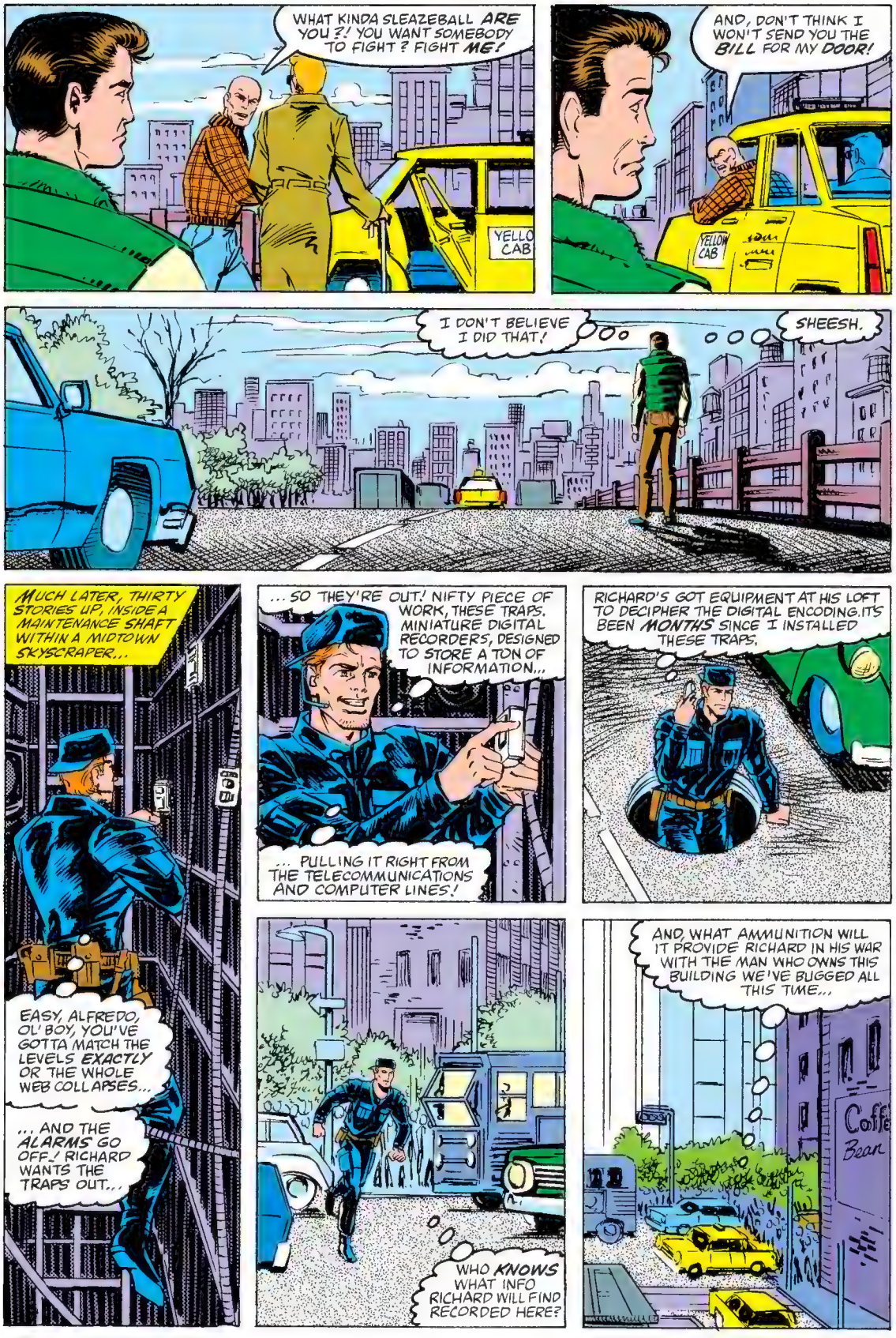

MAYBE THE COPS HAVE A HARD TIME SHUTTING THESE CREEPS DOWN--
-- BUT I CAN CERTAINLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
SURPRISE, CHUCKLES-- IT'S PARTY TIME!
KRASH!
WHO WANTS THE FIRST...
...DANCE...
...OBOY!
THEY'RE ALL... KIDS.. TEEN-AGERS...
TEENAGED THUGS! WITH AN UZI!
WONDERFUL!
BRAP-AP-AP!
THESE KIDS SHOULD BE AT HOME WATCHING BILL COSBY--NOT SELLING CRACK!
WAAP!
NORMALLY I MAKE WITH THE SNAPPY PATTER WHILE I'M DOING MY THING--
KLIKT!
--BUT THIS IS JUST SAD!
WUMP!

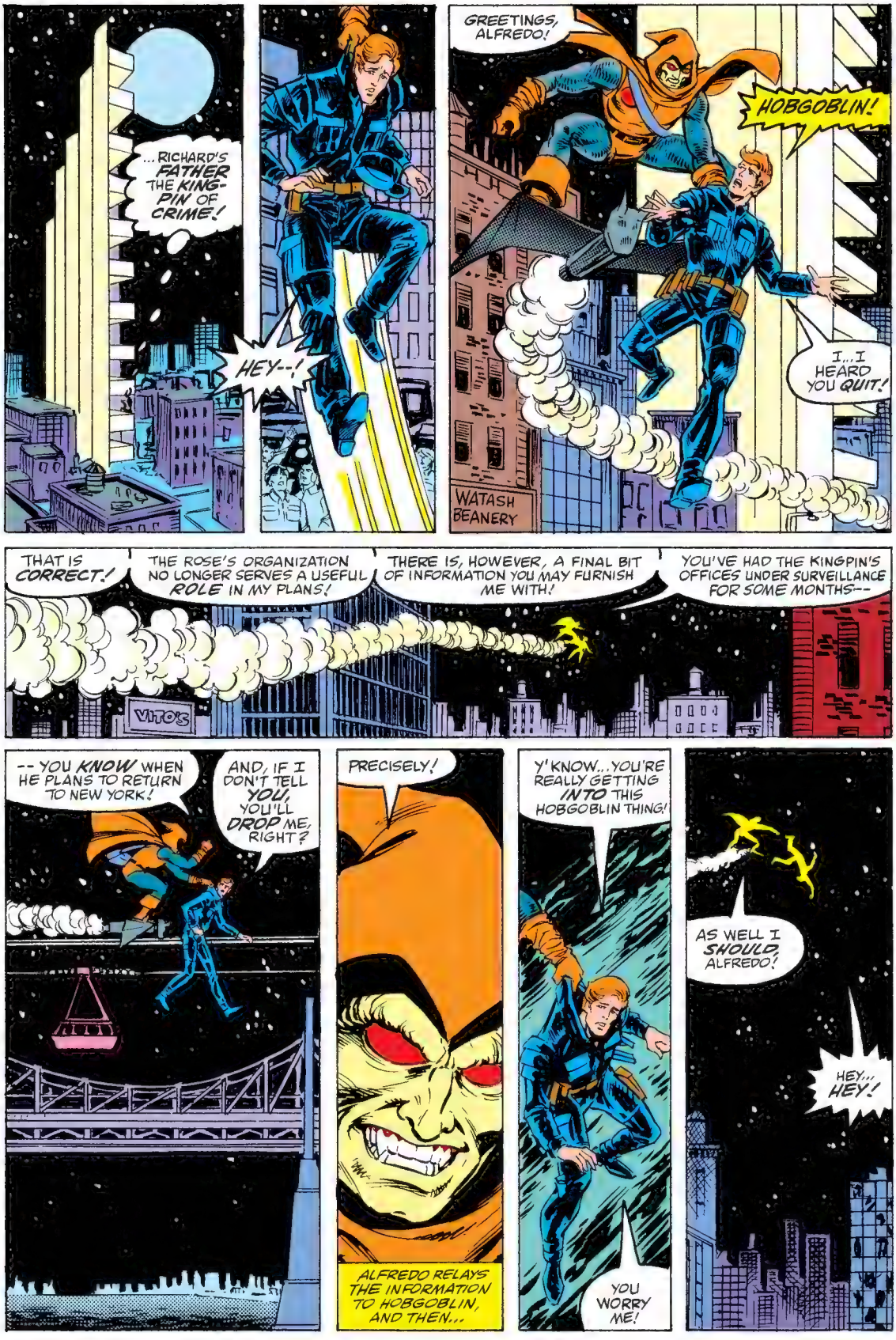

NOW THE CUSTOMER'S TRYING TO MAKE OFF WITH THE GOODS!
THIS JUST GETS MORE SICKENING!
GO HOME! GET SOME HELP!
MOVE!
THIS STINKS!
BASH!
MOMENTARILY...
SOMEBODY CALLED THE COPS! GUESS I WAS MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE... WOKE SOMEBODY UP.
SOMETIMES THE WORLD DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
SOMETIMES I JUST WANT TO GIVE UP!
MORNING, A NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC PARK...
HELLO, RICHARD! NICE BANDAGE!
WHO'S THE LADY?
DINA, THIS IS ALFREDO. ALFREDO, MEET DINA.
HI.
MOMENTARILY...
SHE'S NICE, RICHARD. NOT YOUR TYPE, BUT NICE. WHERE'D YOU FIND HER?
I MET HER IN THIS PARK. SAME DAY I GOT SHOT.

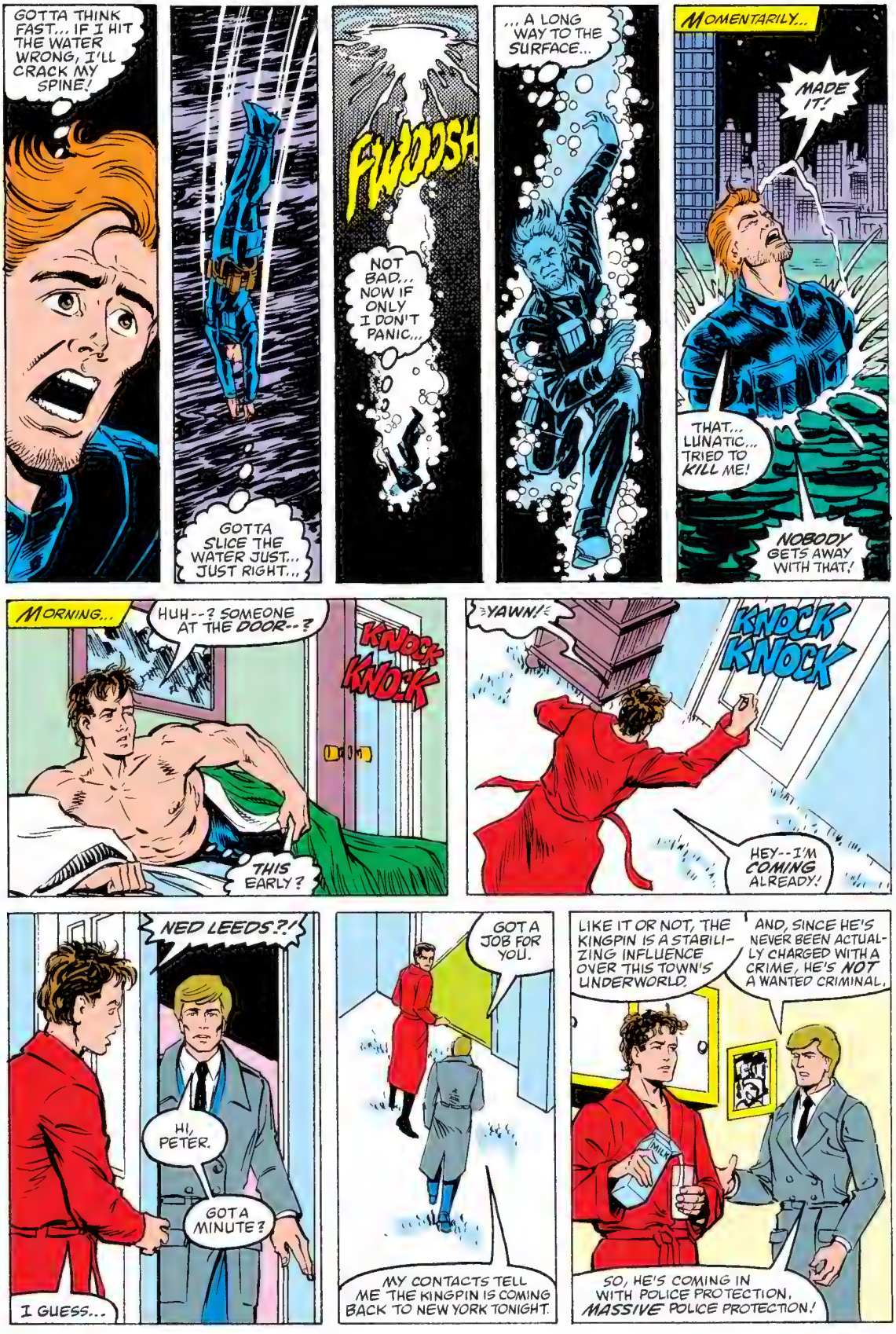

THAT'S RIGHT, I HEARD ABOUT THIS NASTY BUSINESS IN QUEENS. C'MON, RICHARD-- I TOLD YOU TO STAY OUT OF QUEENS!
OH, HERE'S THE COMPUTER DISK. HOPE IT DOES SOMETHING FOR YOU.
IT TOOK ME LONG ENOUGH TO GET INTO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SYSTEM! I WENT OVER IT, BUT IT'S ALL MASH-MUSH TO ME!
THANKS, ALFREDO.
"THANKS, ALFREDO." WHAT'S GOT YOU, PAL?
YOUR RATES.
THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS ARE ON THIS SLIP. YOUR FEE FOR THIS JOB'S ALREADY THERE.
AS USUAL.
ACTUALLY, IT'S THAT COP I SHOT... KILLED...
...THAT WAS NOT PART OF MY PLAN! NOT WHY I BECAME THE ROSE! THINGS ARE BECOMING COMPLICATED!
FIRST, THIS GANG WAR... NOW, HOBGOBLIN'S BETRAYAL! I HOPE HE'S NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BLOW MY COVER.
BLEEEP!
--QUARTER--? GOTTA QUARTER--?
TO ACCOMPLISH MY GOALS, I MUST PAY A HIGH PRICE, ALFREDO! WE ALL DO!
YES, DINA?
YOU'RE RUNNING LATE FOR THAT BUSINESS MEETING ACROSS TOWN, RICHARD.
BETTER WRAP THINGS UP HERE.
ON MY WAY, DINA.
HERE Y'GO, SPORT! HAVE A WATCH!
ALFREDO, THAT WAS A ROLEX! A PRETTY EXPENSIVE THING TO JUST GIVE AWAY!
YOU MISS THE POINT, SON.
THE JUNKIES WILL KILL THE WIND FOR THE WATCH, SELL IT, AND BUY DRUGS! THEY'LL GET A LOT OF MONEY FOR THE ROLEX--
--BUY A LOT OF DRUGS AND OVERDOSE!
IN ONE MOVE, I'VE TAKEN THREE INDIGENTS OFF THE WELFARE ROLLS!
YUP.
AND YOU'RE PLEASED WITH YOURSELF?
PULL THE TRAPS OUT, ALFREDO. MEET ME TONIGHT AT THE LOFT!

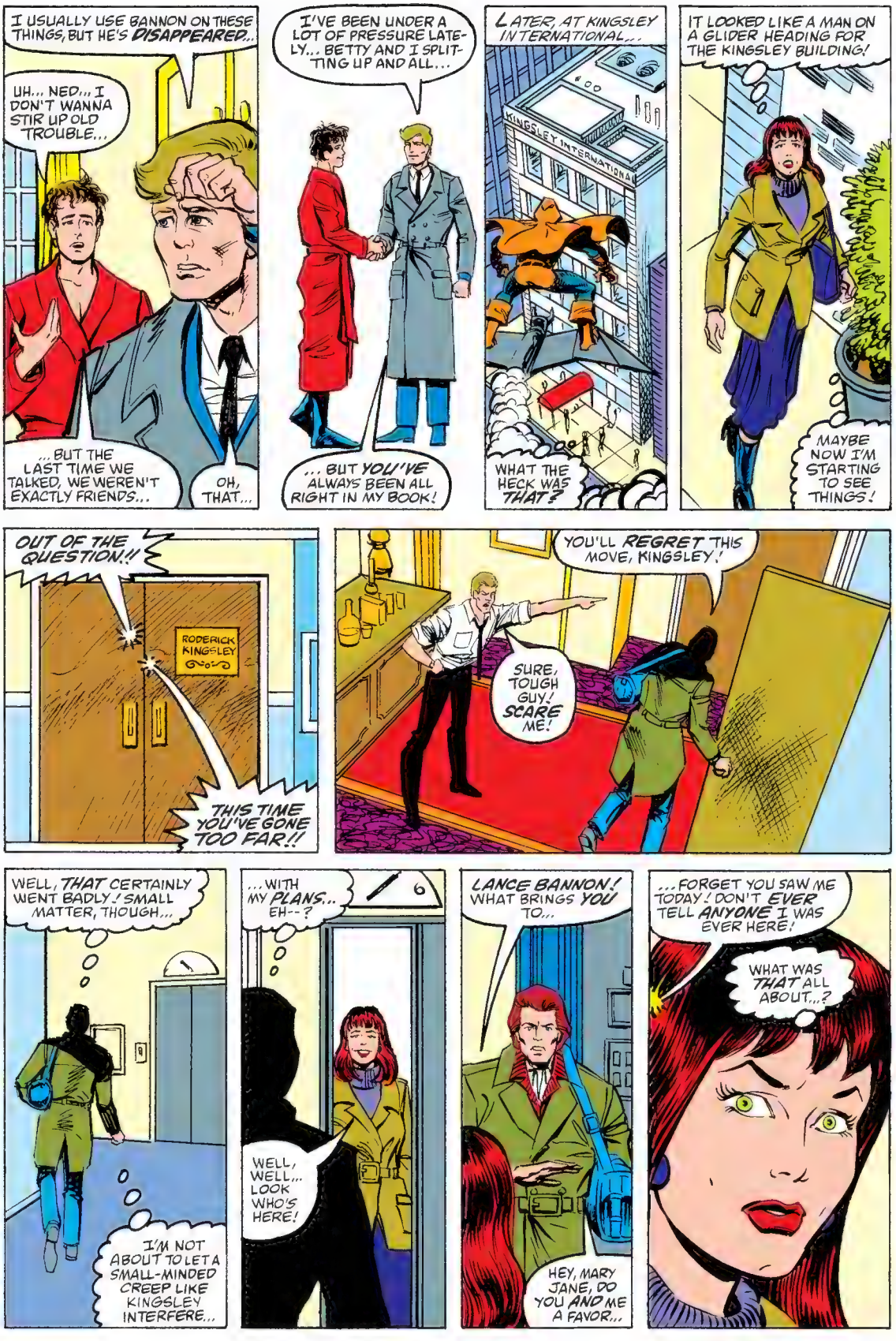

LATER--
LUNCH, BOYS!
WHY DON'T WE EAT BEFORE HOMER STARTS IN WITH THE TAX REFORM AGAIN...
COME NOW, MAY-- THE ENTIRE IDEA IS RIDICULOUS! ALL OUR EXEMPTIONS--OUT THE WINDOW!
OH, POO!
I LOVE IT! ONLY MY AUNT MAY COULD DISMISS A POLITICAL ARGUMENT WITH, "OH, POO!"
GLAD I CAME OVER FOR LUNCH! I NEVER DID FIND DAREDEVIL LAST NIGHT! THIS WILL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO UN-WIND... RELAX.
EAT YOUR LUNCH, HOMER!
FEH!
GUESS I WAS REALLY HOT LAST NIGHT! I WAS SPOILING FOR A FIGHT! THIS ISN'T LIKE ME! I'M NOT IN HIGH SCHOOL ANYMORE!
DING-DONG
THERE'S THE DOORBELL!
YEAH... ALL I NEEDED WAS TO LOOSEN UP...
NOW, IF REAGAN ASKED FOR MY ADVICE...
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE... MATT MURDOCK!
HAH! A LAWYER!
GAK!
HE'LL SEE MY POINT OF VIEW!
ER... EXCUSE US, AUNT MAY! I JUST REMEMBERED MATT AND I HAVE GOT TO RUN!
A SHAME YOU CAN'T STAY, MR. MURDOCK! WE'RE JUST STARTING LUNCH!
I'M THE BONE-HEAD WHO INTRODUCED AUNT MAY TO MATT.* NOW I REALLY REGRET IT!
'BYE, MATT, PETER...!
* SEE PPTSSM #110 -- JIM.
I'LL TELL YOU THIS JUST ONCE, MURDOCK! DON'T EVER GO NEAR MY AUNT AGAIN!
WHAT WAS THAT CRANK CALL ALL ABOUT?!
I WANTED YOU OUT, PETER! YOUR INTERFERENCE IN THIS GANG WAR HAS ONLY PROLONGED IT!
SORRY THAT SAVING LIVES INCONVENIENCES YOU!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON! YOU'RE JUST BLUNDERING AROUND CREATING A BIGGER MESS!
I CAN'T LISTEN TO THIS!
STOP THE CAR! I WANT OUT!
YOU CRAZY?! WE'RE ON THE GRAND CENTRAL!

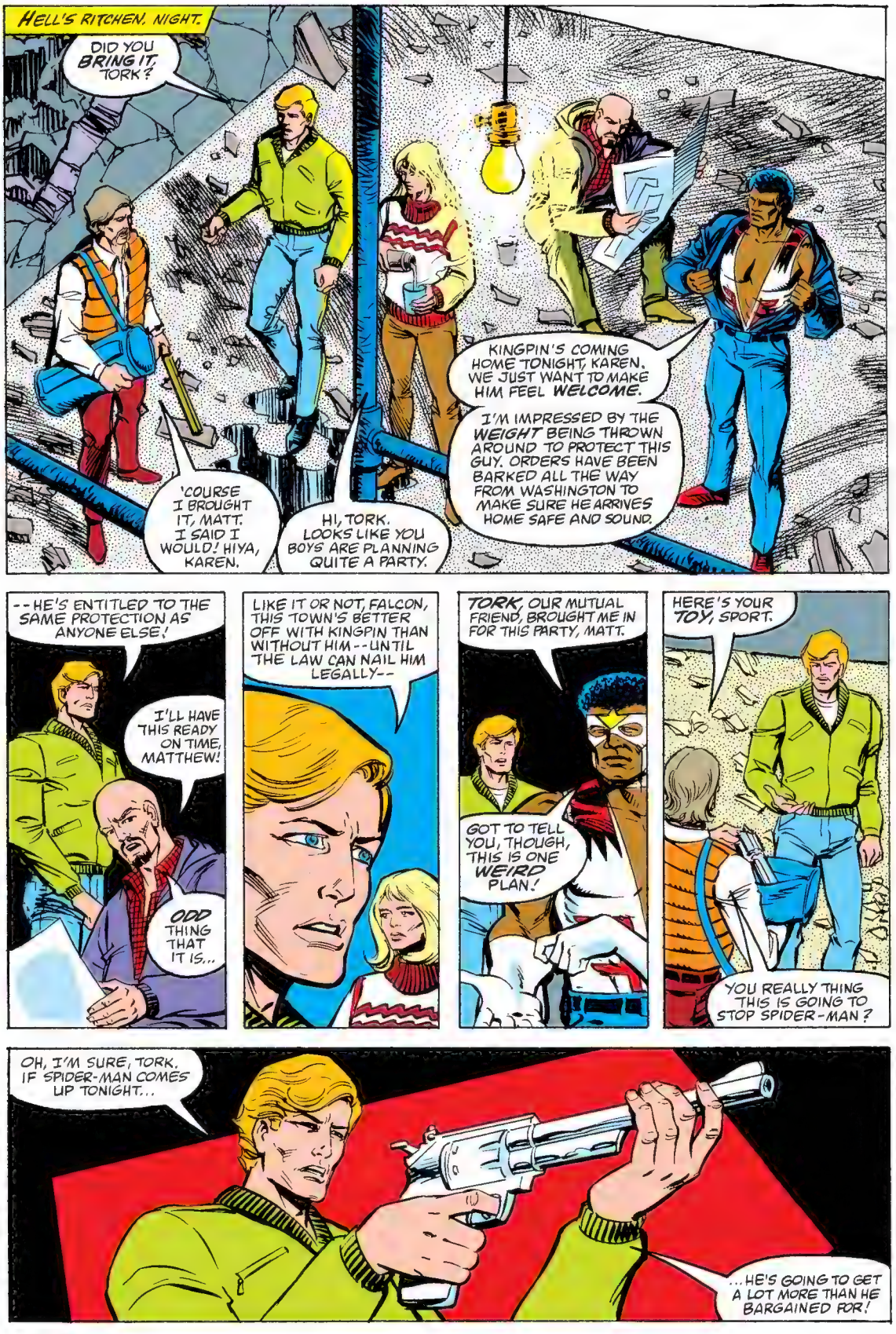

I WANT OUT NOW!
NO WAY! I CAN KISS MY HACK LICENSE GOOD-BYE--
--IF I DISCHARGE ON THE PARKWAY!
LAST CHANCE! YOU GOING TO STOP?
PETER--!
GET STUFFED, "PETER"!
WHAAAM!
YOU' LUNATIC! YOU'LL GET US KILLED!
SAVE IT, MISTER!!
I'M GONNA SHOVE THAT PHONEY CANE RIGHT DOWN YOUR--UHNN!
SPIDER-SENSE BARELY WARNED ME--NOT THAT I COULD'VE DONE A WHOLE LOT FALLING OUT OF THE CAB! HE TAGGED ME--
WAP!
...ACROSS THE BRIDGE OF HIS NOSE! HOPE THE PAIN WILL HELP BLOCK OUT--
HIS SPIDER-SENSE--!
NO GOOD...
NICE TRY, MURDOCK!!
NOW IT'S MY TURN--
WHAM!
HEY...HEY! BEATING UP ON A BLIND MAN?!?
BACK OFF, KID!

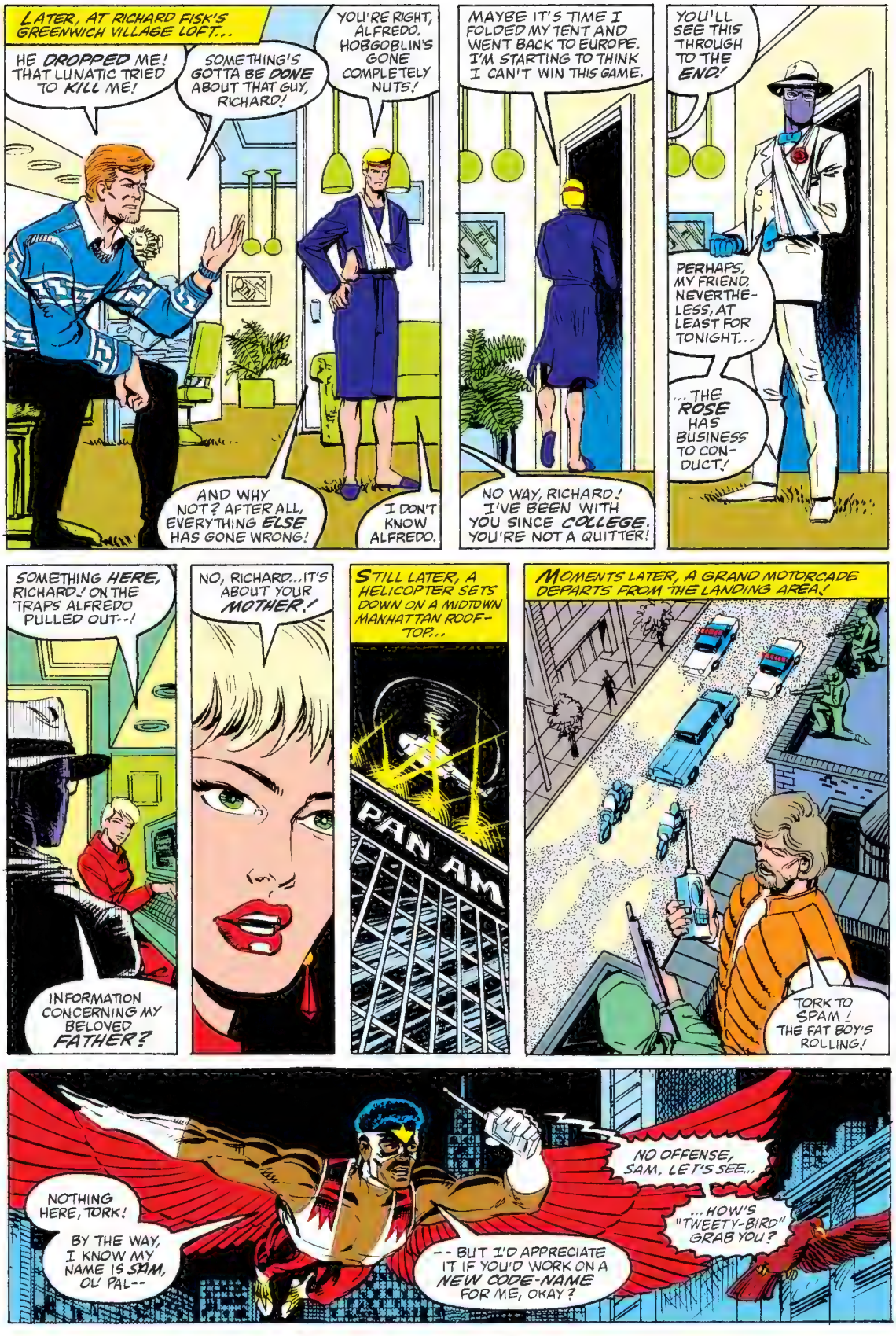

WHAT KINDA SLEAZEBALL ARE YOU?! YOU WANT SOMEBODY TO FIGHT? FIGHT ME!
YELLO CAB
AND, DON'T THINK I WON'T SEND YOU THE BILL FOR MY DOOR!
YELLOW CAB
I DON'T BELIEVE I DID THAT!
SHEESH.
MUCH LATER, THIRTY STORIES UP, INSIDE A MAINTENANCE SHAFT WITHIN A MIDTOWN SKYSCRAPER...
EASY, ALFREDO, OL' BOY, YOU'VE GOTTA MATCH THE LEVELS EXACTLY OR THE WHOLE WEB COLLAPSES...
... AND THE ALARMS GO OFF...! RICHARD WANTS THE TRAPS OUT...
... SO THEY'RE OUT! NIFTY PIECE OF WORK, THESE TRAPS. MINIATURE DIGITAL RECORDERS, DESIGNED TO STORE A TON OF INFORMATION...
... PULLING IT RIGHT FROM THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTER LINES!
RICHARD'S GOT EQUIPMENT AT HIS LOFT TO DECIPHER THE DIGITAL ENCODING. IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE I INSTALLED THESE TRAPS.
WHO KNOWS WHAT INFO RICHARD WILL FIND RECORDED HERE?
AND, WHAT AMMUNITION WILL IT PROVIDE RICHARD IN HIS WAR WITH THE MAN WHO OWNS THIS BUILDING WE'VE BUGGED ALL THIS TIME...
Coffe
Bean


...RICHARD'S FATHER THE KING-PIN OF CRIME!
HEY--!
GREETINGS, ALFREDO!
HOBGOBLIN!
I...I HEARD YOU QUIT!
WATASH BEANERY
THAT IS CORRECT!
THE ROSE'S ORGANIZATION NO LONGER SERVES A USEFUL ROLE IN MY PLANS!
THERE IS, HOWEVER, A FINAL BIT OF INFORMATION YOU MAY FURNISH ME WITH!
YOU'VE HAD THE KINGPIN'S OFFICES UNDER SURVEILLANCE FOR SOME MONTHS--
VITO'S
-- YOU KNOW WHEN HE PLANS TO RETURN TO NEW YORK!
AND, IF I DON'T TELL YOU, YOU'LL DROP ME, RIGHT?
PRECISELY!
ALFREDO RELAYS THE INFORMATION TO HOBGOBLIN, AND THEN...
Y'KNOW...YOU'RE REALLY GETTING INTO THIS HOBGOBLIN THING!
YOU WORRY ME!
AS WELL I SHOULD, ALFREDO!
HEY... HEY!

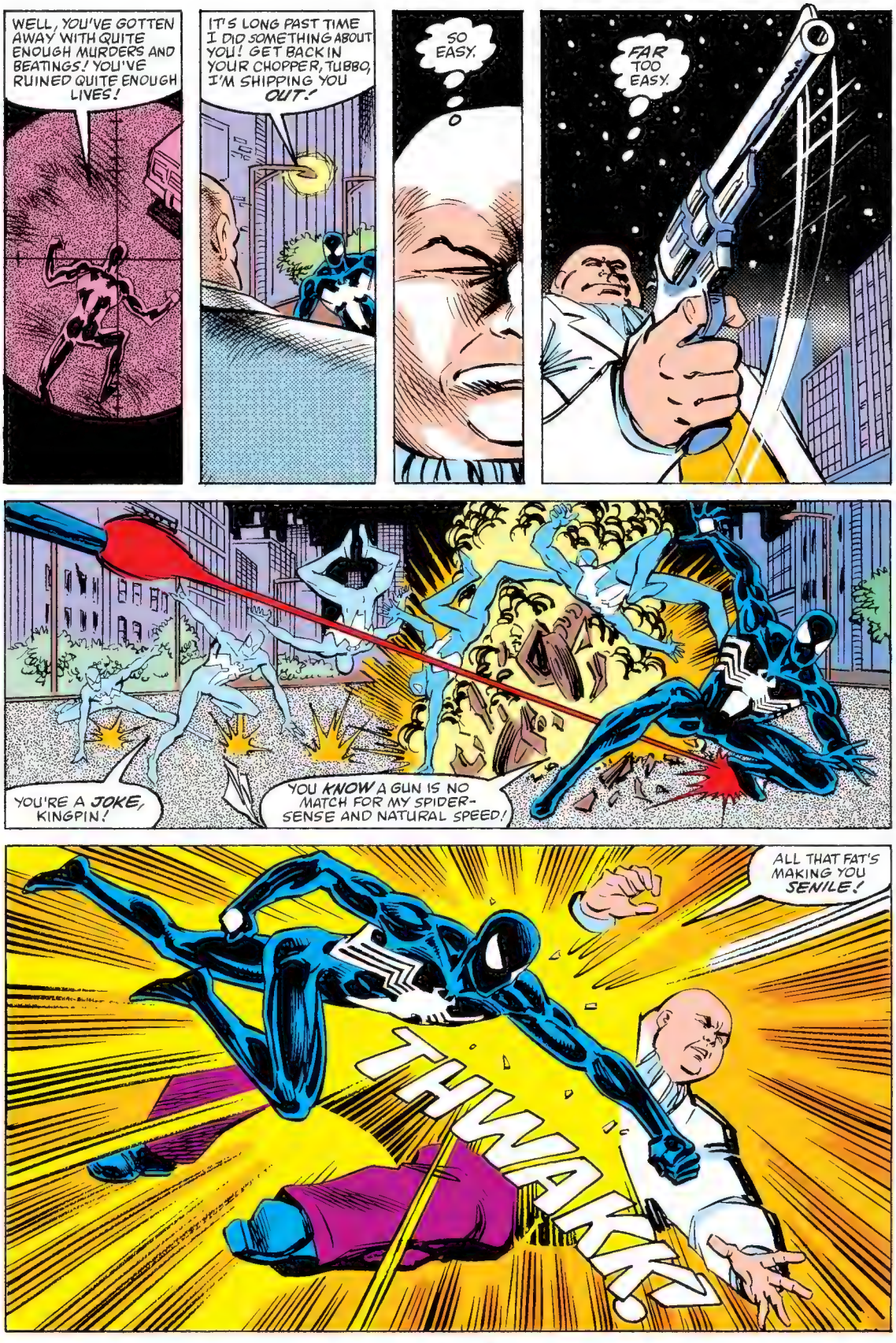

GOTTA THINK FAST... IF I HIT THE WATER WRONG, I'LL CRACK MY SPINE!
GOTTA SLICE THE WATER JUST... JUST RIGHT...
FWOOSH
NOT BAD... NOW IF ONLY I DON'T PANIC...
... A LONG WAY TO THE SURFACE...
MOMENTARILY...
MADE IT!
THAT... LUNATIC... TRIED TO KILL ME!
NOBODY GETS AWAY WITH THAT!
MORNING...
HUH--? SOMEONE AT THE DOOR--?
KNOCK KNOCK
THIS EARLY?
YAWN!
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY--I'M COMING ALREADY!
NED LEEDS?!
HI, PETER.
GOT A MINUTE?
I GUESS...
GOT A JOB FOR YOU.
MY CONTACTS TELL ME THE KINGPIN IS COMING BACK TO NEW YORK TONIGHT.
LIKE IT OR NOT, THE KINGPIN IS A STABILIZING INFLUENCE OVER THIS TOWN'S UNDERWORLD.
AND, SINCE HE'S NEVER BEEN ACTUALLY CHARGED WITH A CRIME, HE'S NOT A WANTED CRIMINAL.
MILK
SO, HE'S COMING IN WITH POLICE PROTECTION, MASSIVE POLICE PROTECTION!


I USUALLY USE BANNON ON THESE THINGS, BUT HE'S DISAPPEARED...
UH... NED... I DON'T WANNA STIR UP OLD TROUBLE...
... BUT THE LAST TIME WE TALKED, WE WEREN'T EXACTLY FRIENDS...
OH, THAT...
I'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE LATELY... BETTY AND I SPLITTING UP AND ALL...
... BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALL RIGHT IN MY BOOK!
LATER, AT KINGSLEY INTERNATIONAL...
KINGSLEY INTERNATIONAL
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?
IT LOOKED LIKE A MAN ON A GLIDER HEADING FOR THE KINGSLEY BUILDING!
MAYBE NOW I'M STARTING TO SEE THINGS!
OUT OF THE QUESTION!!
RODERICK KINGSLEY
THIS TIME YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!!
YOU'LL REGRET THIS MOVE, KINGSLEY!
SURE, TOUGH GUY! SCARE ME!
WELL, THAT CERTAINLY WENT BADLY! SMALL MATTER, THOUGH...
I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET A SMALL-MINDED CREEP LIKE KINGSLEY INTERFERE...
... WITH MY PLANS... EH--?
WELL, WELL... LOOK WHO'S HERE!
LANCE BANNON! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO...
HEY, MARY JANE, DO YOU AND ME A FAVOR...
... FORGET YOU SAW ME TODAY! DON'T EVER TELL ANYONE I WAS EVER HERE!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT...?

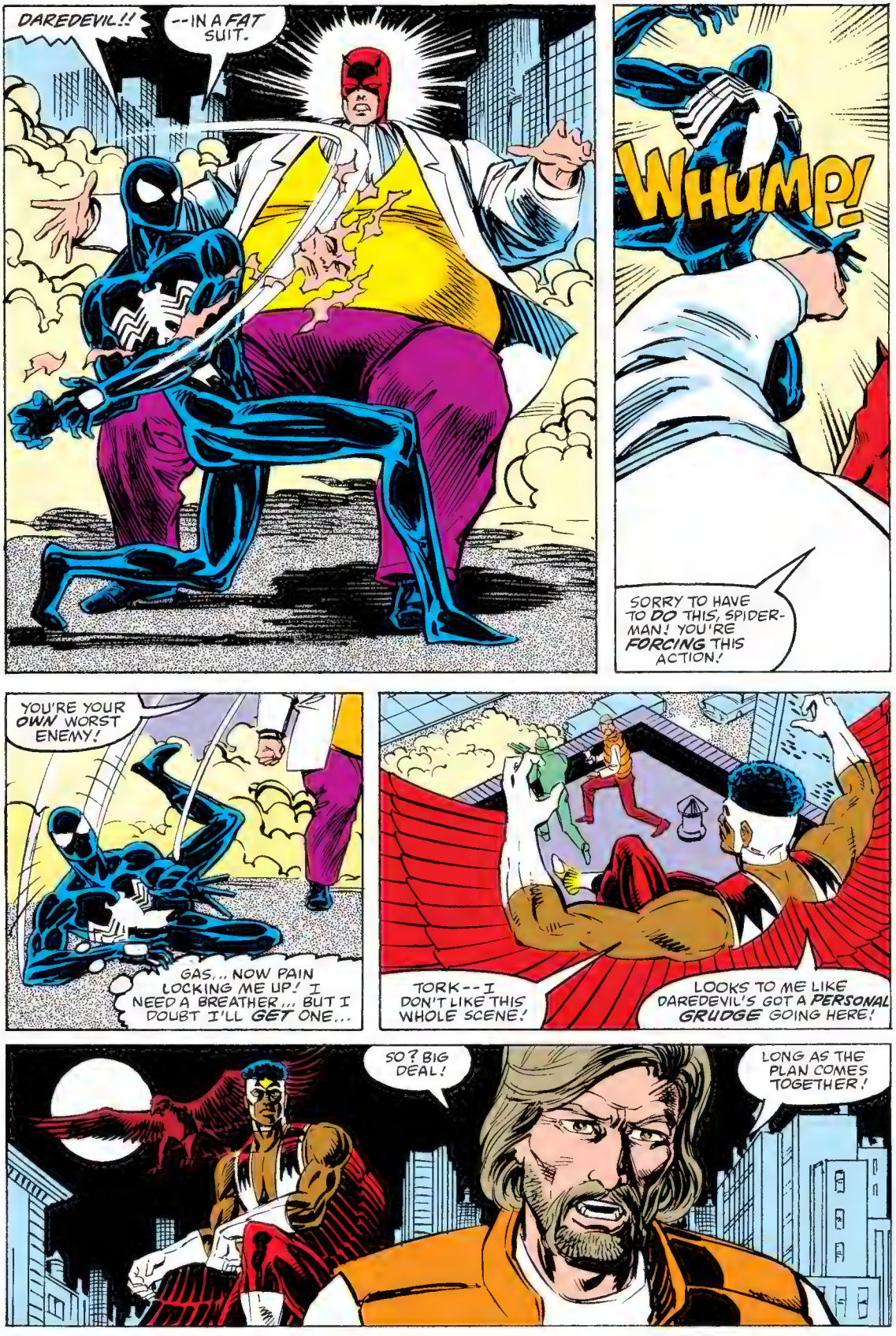

HELL'S KITCHEN. NIGHT.
DID YOU BRING IT, TORK?
'COURSE I BROUGHT IT, MATT. I SAID I WOULD! HIYA, KAREN.
HI, TORK. LOOKS LIKE YOU BOYS ARE PLANNING QUITE A PARTY.
KINGPIN'S COMING HOME TONIGHT, KAREN. WE JUST WANT TO MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME.
I'M IMPRESSED BY THE WEIGHT BEING THROWN AROUND TO PROTECT THIS GUY. ORDERS HAVE BEEN BARKED ALL THE WAY FROM WASHINGTON TO MAKE SURE HE ARRIVES HOME SAFE AND SOUND.
--HE'S ENTITLED TO THE SAME PROTECTION AS ANYONE ELSE!
I'LL HAVE THIS READY ON TIME, MATTHEW!
ODD THING THAT IT IS...
LIKE IT OR NOT, FALCON, THIS TOWN'S BETTER OFF WITH KINGPIN THAN WITHOUT HIM--UNTIL THE LAW CAN NAIL HIM LEGALLY--
TORK, OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, BROUGHT ME IN FOR THIS PARTY, MATT.
GOT TO TELL YOU, THOUGH, THIS IS ONE WEIRD PLAN!
HERE'S YOUR TOY, SPORT.
YOU REALLY THING THIS IS GOING TO STOP SPIDER-MAN?
OH, I'M SURE, TORK. IF SPIDER-MAN COMES UP TONIGHT...
...HE'S GOING TO GET A LOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR!

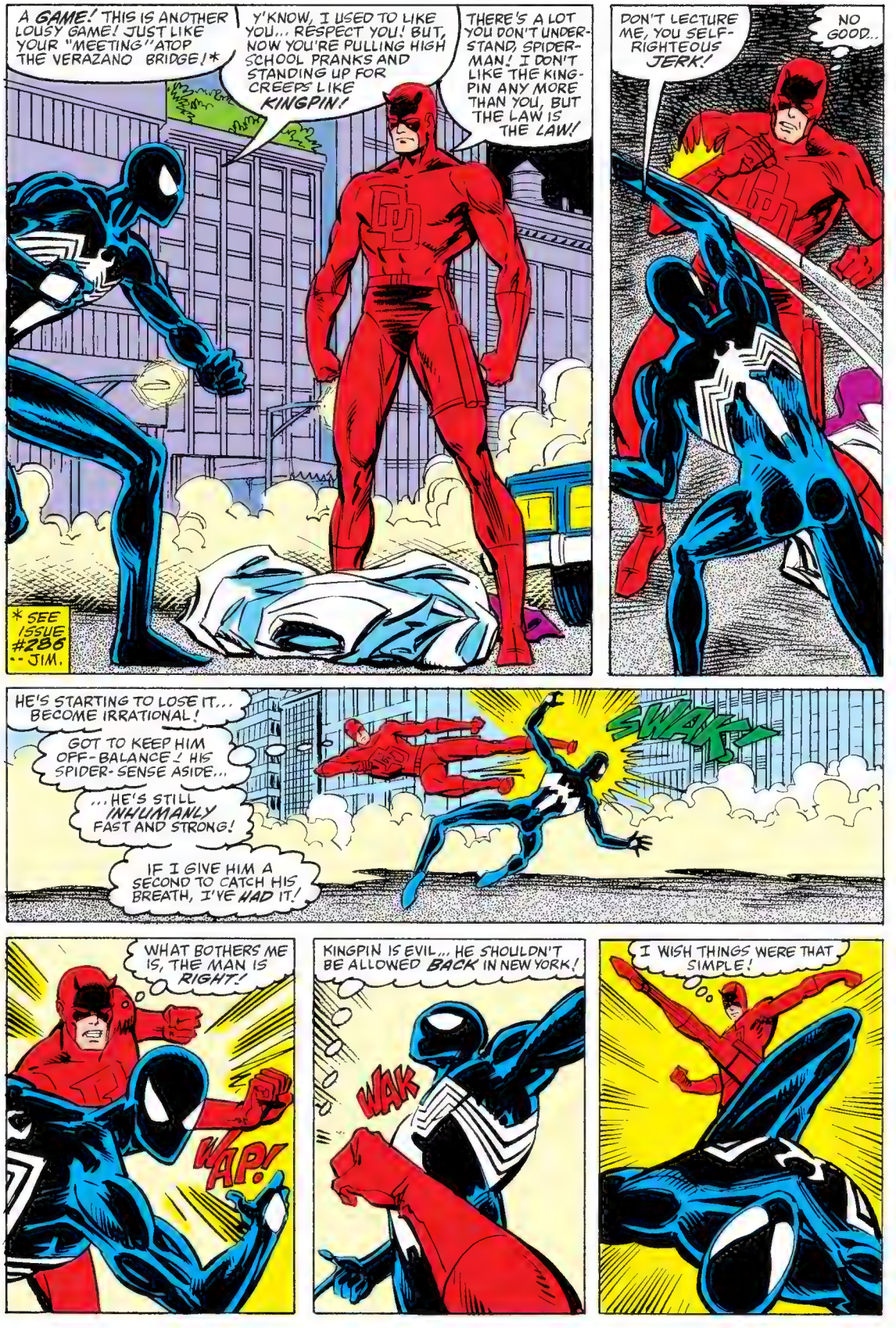

LATER, AT RICHARD FISK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE LOFT...
HE DROPPED ME! THAT LUNATIC TRIED TO KILL ME!
SOMETHING'S GOTTA BE DONE ABOUT THAT GUY, RICHARD!
YOU'RE RIGHT, ALFREDO. HOBGOBLIN'S GONE COMPLETELY NUTS!
AND WHY NOT? AFTER ALL, EVERYTHING ELSE HAS GONE WRONG!
I DON'T KNOW ALFREDO.
MAYBE IT'S TIME I FOLDED MY TENT AND WENT BACK TO EUROPE. I'M STARTING TO THINK I CAN'T WIN THIS GAME.
NO WAY, RICHARD! I'VE BEEN WITH YOU SINCE COLLEGE. YOU'RE NOT A QUITTER!
YOU'LL SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END!
PERHAPS, MY FRIEND. NEVERTHELESS, AT LEAST FOR TONIGHT...
...THE ROSE HAS BUSINESS TO CONDUCT.
SOMETHING HERE, RICHARD! ON THE TRAPS ALFREDO PULLED OUT--!
INFORMATION CONCERNING MY BELOVED FATHER?
NO, RICHARD...IT'S ABOUT YOUR MOTHER!
STILL LATER, A HELICOPTER SETS DOWN ON A MIDTOWN MANHATTAN ROOFTOP...
PAN AM
MOMENTS LATER, A GRAND MOTORCADE DEPARTS FROM THE LANDING AREA!
TORK TO SPAM! THE FAT BOY'S ROLLING!
NOTHING HERE, TORK!
BY THE WAY, I KNOW MY NAME IS SAM, OL' PAL--
-- BUT I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D WORK ON A NEW CODE-NAME FOR ME, OKAY?
NO OFFENSE, SAM. LET'S SEE...
...HOW'S "TWEETY-BIRD" GRAB YOU?

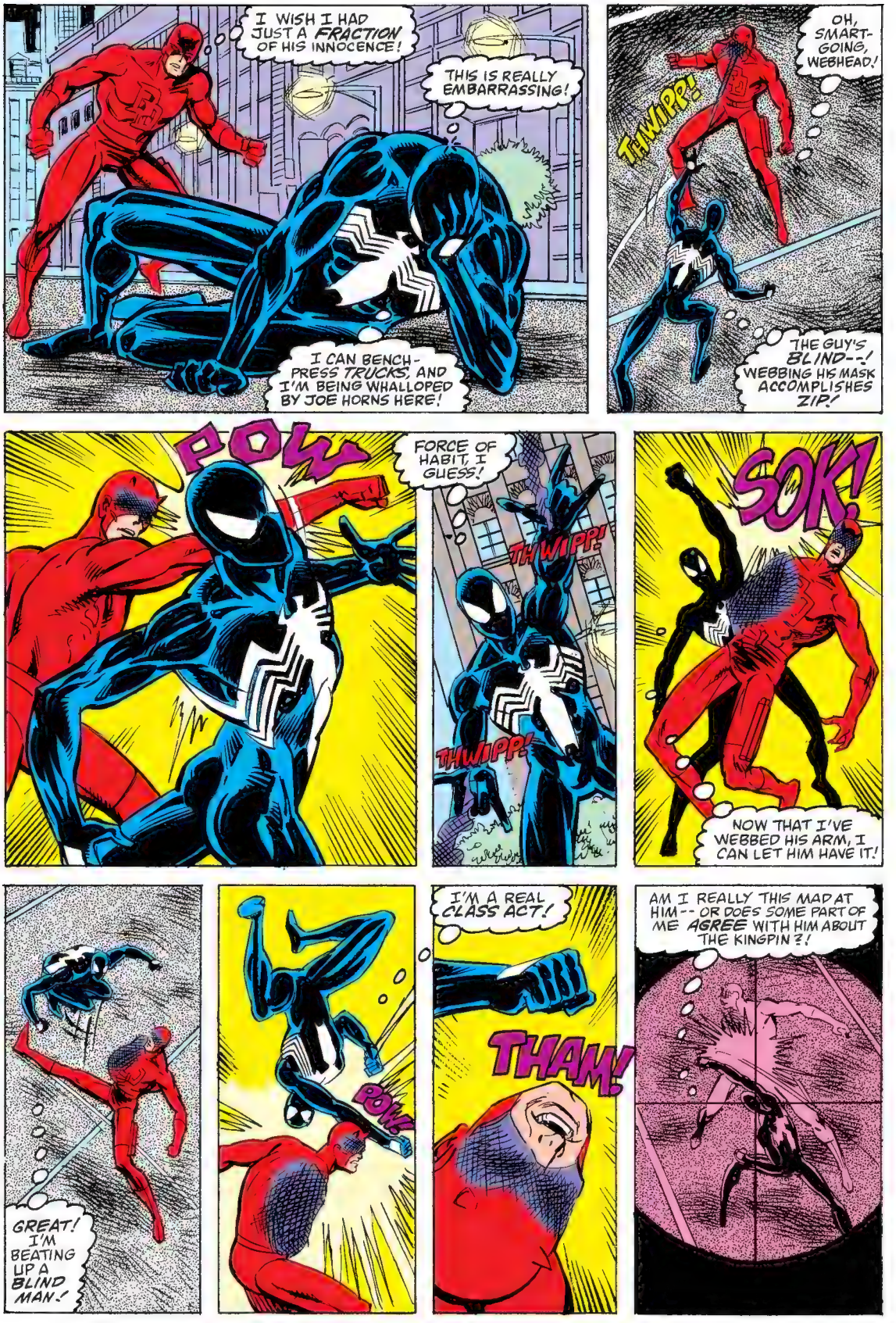
SUDDENLY, THE LEAD MOTORCYCLE OFFICER IS TUGGED SKYWARD!
HOLD ON, EVERYBODY! IT'S SHOW TIME!
NYPD
JUST THE GUY WE WERE LOOKING FOR...
OUT, MISTER!
I WANT WORDS WITH YOU!
EASY, BOYS. LET HIM MAKE HIS MOVE.
KINGPIN!!
BACK IN TOWN AT LAST, HUH?!
THE POLICE WON'T STOP YOU!
NONE OF YOUR HOODLUM ENEMIES WILL STAND UP TO YOU!
THE POLITICIANS WON'T STOP YOU!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL SEWN UP, DON'T YOU?!

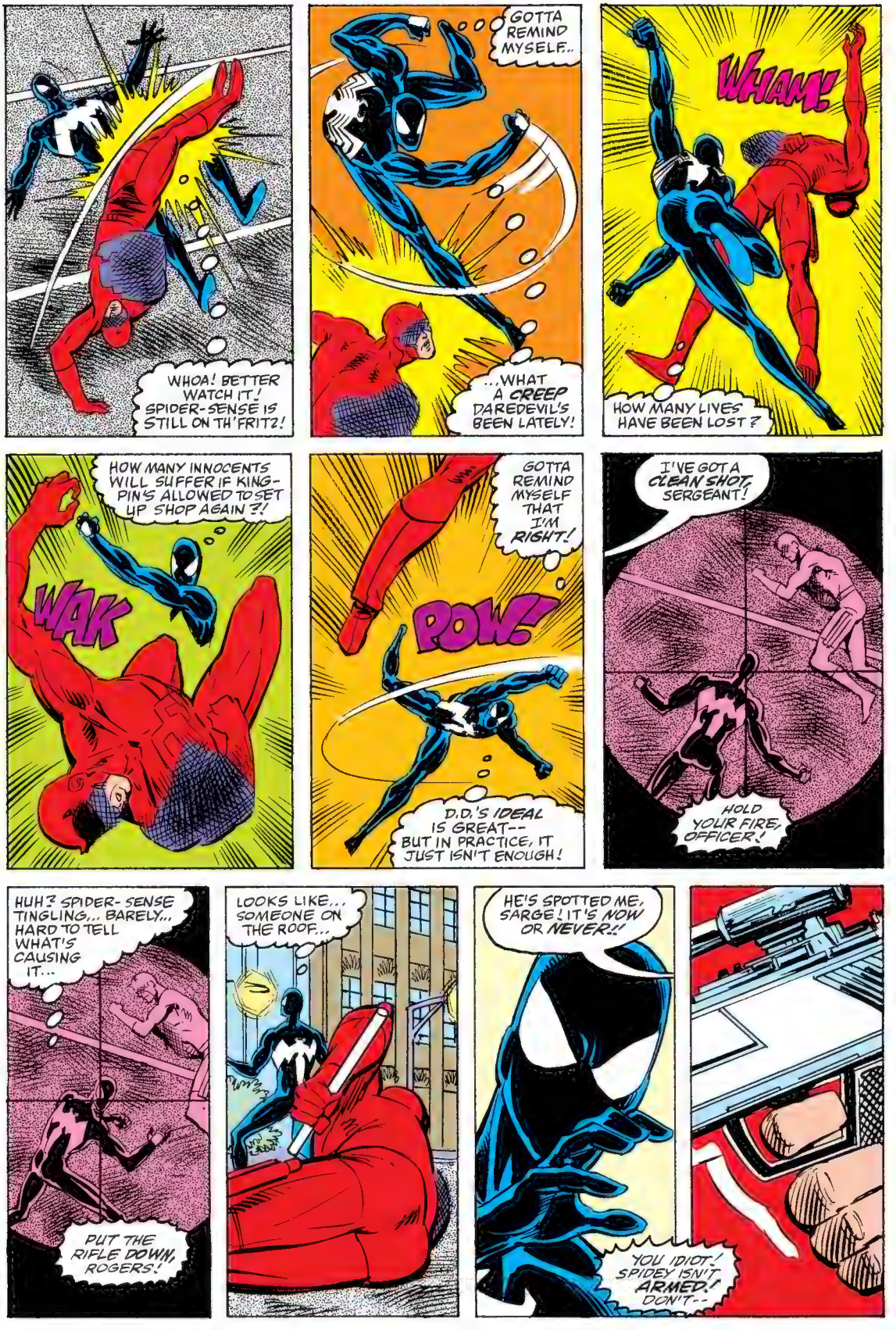

WELL, YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH QUITE ENOUGH MURDERS AND BEATINGS! YOU'VE RUINED QUITE ENOUGH LIVES!
IT'S LONG PAST TIME I DID SOMETHING ABOUT YOU! GET BACK IN YOUR CHOPPER, TUBBO, I'M SHIPPING YOU OUT!
SO EASY.
FAR TOO EASY.
YOU'RE A JOKE, KINGPIN!
YOU KNOW A GUN IS NO MATCH FOR MY SPIDER-SENSE AND NATURAL SPEED!
ALL THAT FAT'S MAKING YOU SENILE!
THWAK!

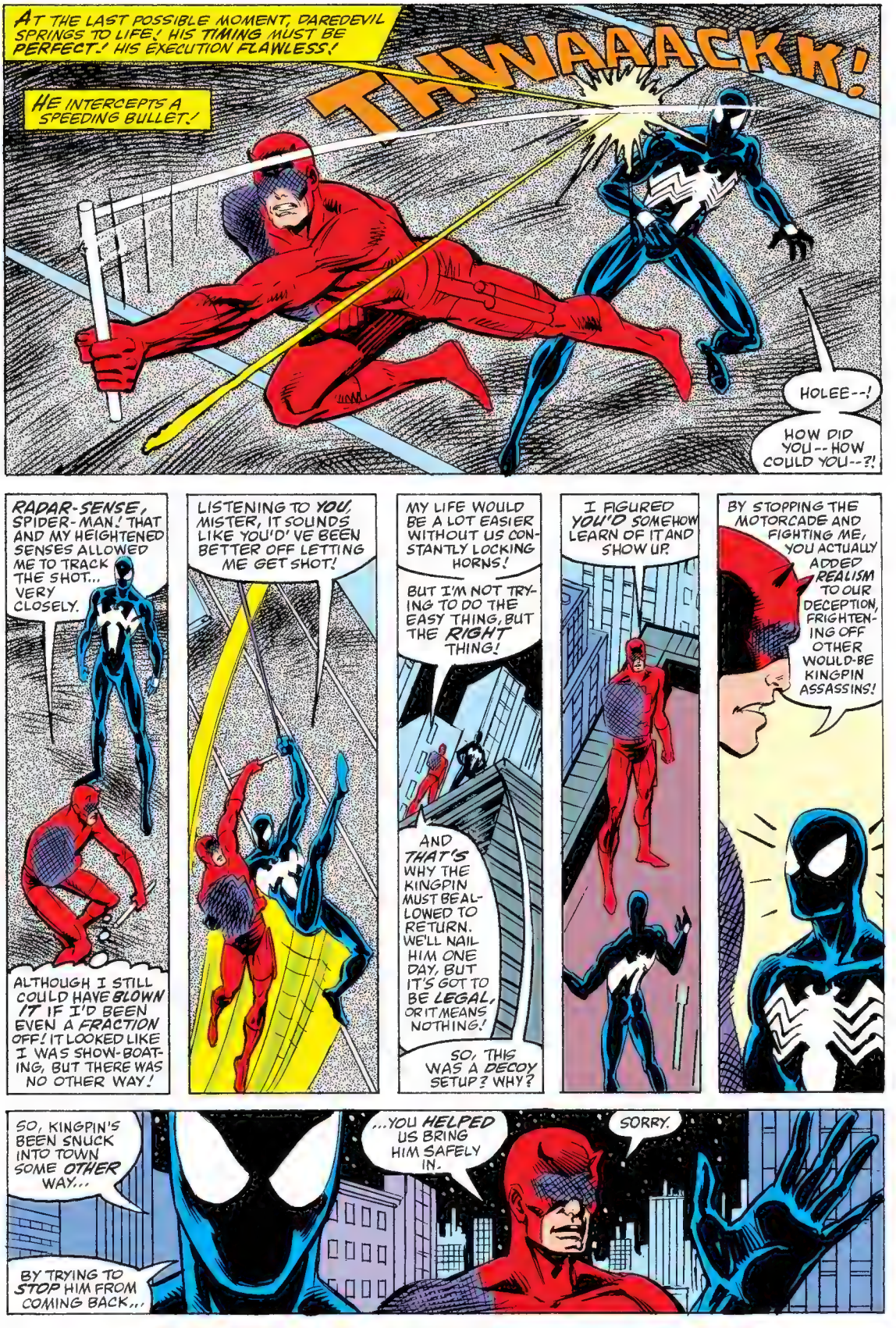
GET UP, MISTER! I WANNA BASH YOU AGAIN!
HUH? GRABBED ME--? BUT-- HOW?!
THWOOM!
OUCH.
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED TO MY...
...SPIDER-SENSE...? THAT... GAS...
THAT WAS NO ORDINARY GUN! IT SHOT MINATURE GAS GRENADES AT ME -- RELEASING THIS STRANGE MIST...
SOME KIND OF... OF NERVE GAS... JAMMING MY SPIDER-SENSE!
WAIT... SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT HERE--!
NOW THAT I SEE YOUR FACE IN THE LIGHT--

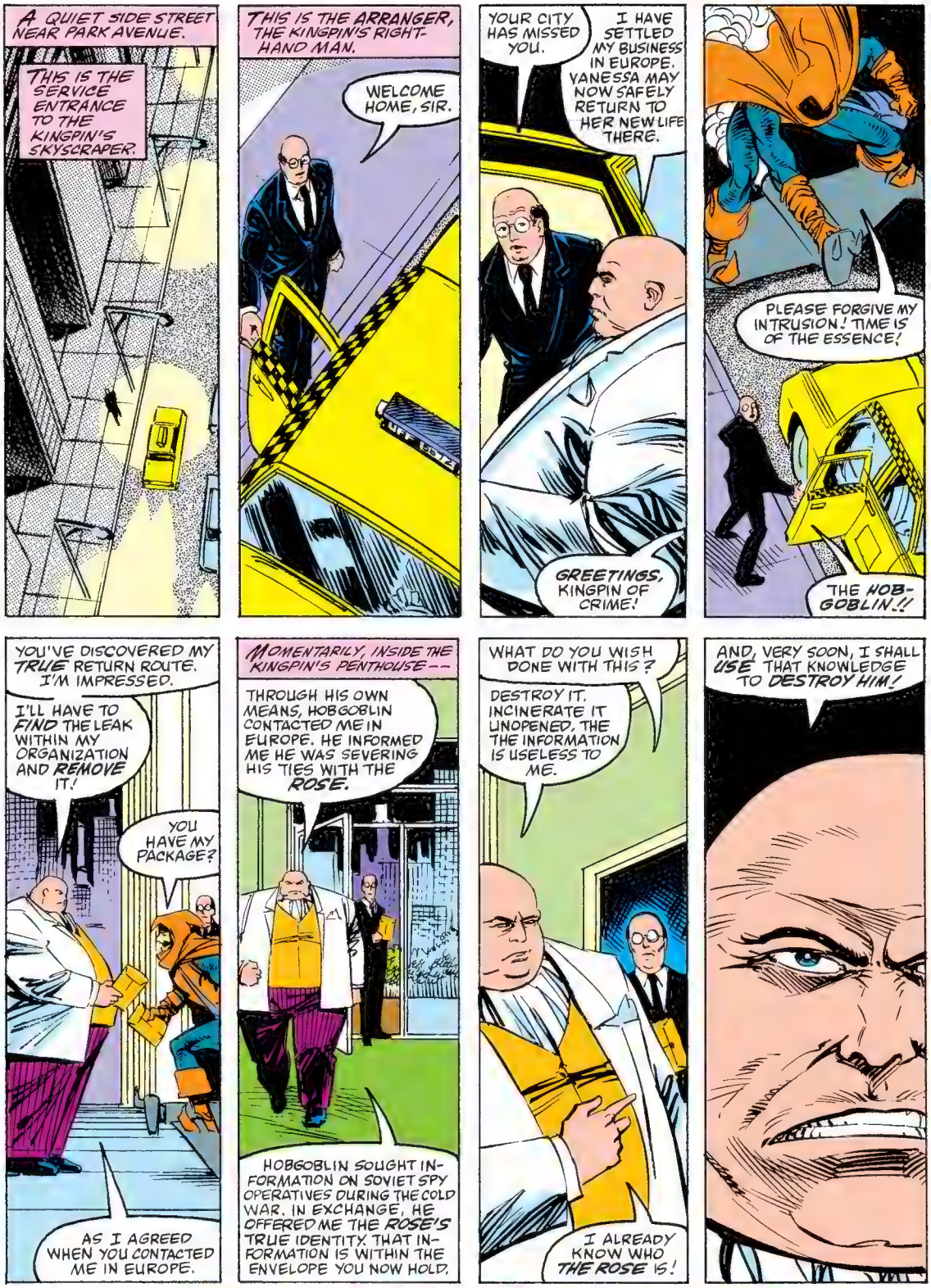

DAREDEVIL!!
--IN A FAT SUIT.
WHUMP!
SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE FORCING THIS ACTION!
YOU'RE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMY!
GAS... NOW PAIN LOCKING ME UP! I NEED A BREATHER... BUT I DOUBT I'LL GET ONE...
TORK--I DON'T LIKE THIS WHOLE SCENE!
LOOKS TO ME LIKE DAREDEVIL'S GOT A PERSONAL GRUDGE GOING HERE!
SO? BIG DEAL!
LONG AS THE PLAN COMES TOGETHER!


A GAME! THIS IS ANOTHER LOUSY GAME! JUST LIKE YOUR "MEETING" ATOP THE VERAZANO BRIDGE!*
Y'KNOW, I USED TO LIKE YOU... RESPECT YOU! BUT, NOW YOU'RE PULLING HIGH SCHOOL PRANKS AND STANDING UP FOR CREEPS LIKE KINGPIN!
THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SPIDER-MAN! I DON'T LIKE THE KINGPIN ANY MORE THAN YOU, BUT THE LAW IS THE LAW!
* SEE ISSUE #286 -- JIM.
DON'T LECTURE ME, YOU SELF-RIGHTEOUS JERK!
NO GOOD..
HE'S STARTING TO LOSE IT... BECOME IRRATIONAL!
GOT TO KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE! HIS SPIDER-SENSE ASIDE...
...HE'S STILL INHUMANLY FAST AND STRONG!
IF I GIVE HIM A SECOND TO CATCH HIS BREATH, I'VE HAD IT!
SWAK
WHAT BOTHERS ME IS, THE MAN IS RIGHT!
WAP!
KINGPIN IS EVIL... HE SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED BACK IN NEW YORK!
WAK
I WISH THINGS WERE THAT SIMPLE!


I WISH I HAD JUST A FRACTION OF HIS INNOCENCE!
THIS IS REALLY EMBARRASSING!
I CAN BENCH-PRESS TRUCKS, AND I'M BEING WHALLOPED BY JOE HORNS HERE!
OH, SMART-GOING, WEBHEAD!
THWIPP!
THE GUY'S BLIND--! WEBBING HIS MASK ACCOMPLISHES ZIP!
POW
FORCE OF HABIT, I GUESS!
THWIPP!
THWIPP!
SOK!
NOW THAT I'VE WEBBED HIS ARM, I CAN LET HIM HAVE IT!
GREAT! I'M BEATING UP A BLIND MAN!
POW!
I'M A REAL CLASS ACT!
THAM!
AM I REALLY THIS MAD AT HIM -- OR DOES SOME PART OF ME AGREE WITH HIM ABOUT THE KINGPIN?!


WHOA! BETTER WATCH IT! SPIDER-SENSE IS STILL ON TH' FRITZ!
GOTTA REMIND MYSELF..
...WHAT A CREEP DAREDEVIL'S BEEN LATELY!
WHAM!
HOW MANY LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST?
HOW MANY INNOCENTS WILL SUFFER IF KINGPIN'S ALLOWED TO SET UP SHOP AGAIN?!
WAK
GOTTA REMIND MYSELF THAT I'M RIGHT!
POW!
D.D.'S IDEAL IS GREAT-- BUT IN PRACTICE, IT JUST ISN'T ENOUGH!
I'VE GOT A CLEAN SHOT, SERGEANT!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, OFFICER!
HUH? SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING... BARELY... HARD TO TELL WHAT'S CAUSING IT...
PUT THE RIFLE DOWN, ROGERS!
LOOKS LIKE... SOMEONE ON THE ROOF...
HE'S SPOTTED ME, SARGE! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!!
YOU IDIOT! SPIDEY ISN'T ARMED! DON'T--


AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, DAREDEVIL SPRINGS TO LIFE! HIS TIMING MUST BE PERFECT! HIS EXECUTION FLAWLESS!
HE INTERCEPTS A SPEEDING BULLET!
THWAAAACKK!
HOLEE--!
HOW DID YOU--HOW COULD YOU--?!
RADAR-SENSE, SPIDER-MAN! THAT AND MY HEIGHTENED SENSES ALLOWED ME TO TRACK THE SHOT... VERY CLOSELY.
ALTHOUGH I STILL COULD HAVE BLOWN IT IF I'D BEEN EVEN A FRACTION OFF! IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS SHOW-BOATING, BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY!
LISTENING TO YOU, MISTER, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'D'VE BEEN BETTER OFF LETTING ME GET SHOT!
MY LIFE WOULD BE A LOT EASIER WITHOUT US CONSTANTLY LOCKING HORNS!
BUT I'M NOT TRYING TO DO THE EASY THING, BUT THE RIGHT THING!
AND THAT'S WHY THE KINGPIN MUST BE ALLOWED TO RETURN. WE'LL NAIL HIM ONE DAY, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE LEGAL, OR IT MEANS NOTHING!
SO, THIS WAS A DECOY SETUP? WHY?
I FIGURED YOU'D SOMEHOW LEARN OF IT AND SHOW UP.
BY STOPPING THE MOTORCADE AND FIGHTING ME, YOU ACTUALLY ADDED REALISM TO OUR DECEPTION, FRIGHTENING OFF OTHER WOULD-BE KINGPIN ASSASSINS!
SO, KINGPIN'S BEEN SNUCK INTO TOWN SOME OTHER WAY...
BY TRYING TO STOP HIM FROM COMING BACK...
...YOU HELPED US BRING HIM SAFELY IN.
SORRY.


A QUIET SIDE STREET NEAR PARK AVENUE.
THIS IS THE SERVICE ENTRANCE TO THE KINGPIN'S SKYSCRAPER.
THIS IS THE ARRANGER, THE KINGPIN'S RIGHT-HAND MAN.
WELCOME HOME, SIR.
YOUR CITY HAS MISSED YOU.
I HAVE SETTLED MY BUSINESS IN EUROPE. VANESSA MAY NOW SAFELY RETURN TO HER NEW LIFE THERE.
GREETINGS, KINGPIN OF CRIME!
PLEASE FORGIVE MY INTRUSION! TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!
THE HOB-GOBLIN!!
YOU'VE DISCOVERED MY TRUE RETURN ROUTE. I'M IMPRESSED.
I'LL HAVE TO FIND THE LEAK WITHIN MY ORGANIZATION AND REMOVE IT.
YOU HAVE MY PACKAGE?
AS I AGREED WHEN YOU CONTACTED ME IN EUROPE.
MOMENTARILY, INSIDE THE KINGPIN'S PENTHOUSE--
THROUGH HIS OWN MEANS, HOBGOBLIN CONTACTED ME IN EUROPE. HE INFORMED ME HE WAS SEVERING HIS TIES WITH THE ROSE.
HOBGOBLIN SOUGHT INFORMATION ON SOVIET SPY OPERATIVES DURING THE COLD WAR. IN EXCHANGE, HE OFFERED ME THE ROSE'S TRUE IDENTITY. THAT INFORMATION IS WITHIN THE ENVELOPE YOU NOW HOLD.
WHAT DO YOU WISH DONE WITH THIS?
DESTROY IT. INCINERATE IT UNOPENED. THE THE INFORMATION IS USELESS TO ME.
I ALREADY KNOW WHO THE ROSE IS!
AND, VERY SOON, I SHALL USE THAT KNOWLEDGE TO DESTROY HIM!

NEXT ISSUE: **THE WAR ENDS!** 'NUFF SAID!

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AUTHORITY
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
THE KINGPIN! DAREDEVIL! THE BLACK CAT! THE FALCON! ALL IN
GANG WAR
PART FIVE
THE CONCLUSION
"THE WAR ENDS!"
SEIGER + McLEOD

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

FINAL

DAILY BUGLE 30¢

THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER

VOL. LCX No. 22 December 19, 1986

Very cold. High 20–25. Details p. 2.

GANG WAR RAGES ON!

JIM OWLSEY
SCRIPT

JIM FERN
INKS

RICK PARKER
LETTERING

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

ALAN KUPPERBERG
PENCILS

GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORING

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR

THROUGHOUT THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, **WAR** HAS BEEN WAGED IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY. IT IS A WAR OF **GANGSTERS.**

THE WAR CAME AS THE RESULT OF A SUDDEN, MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CITY'S MOST POWERFUL ORGANIZED CRIME LEADER... THE **KINGPIN.**

FINAL DAILY BUGLE THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER 30¢

KINGPIN IS MISSING

FINAL DAILY BUGLE THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER 30¢

SPIDER-MAN WANTED FOR MURDER

WITH THE KINGPIN GONE, THE CRIMINAL HIERARCHY BECAME VIOLENTLY UNSTABLE AS SEVERAL MAJOR FACTIONS BEGAN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL.*

*GANG WAR PARTS 1-5 TAKE PLACE BEFORE SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE #1 AND AFTER THE DAREDEVIL GRAPHIC NOVEL. -- J.S.

FINAL DAILY BUGLE THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER 30¢

THE PUNISHER STRIKES

"HE'S LIKE A KID IN A CANDY STORE"

DAILY BUGLE THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER

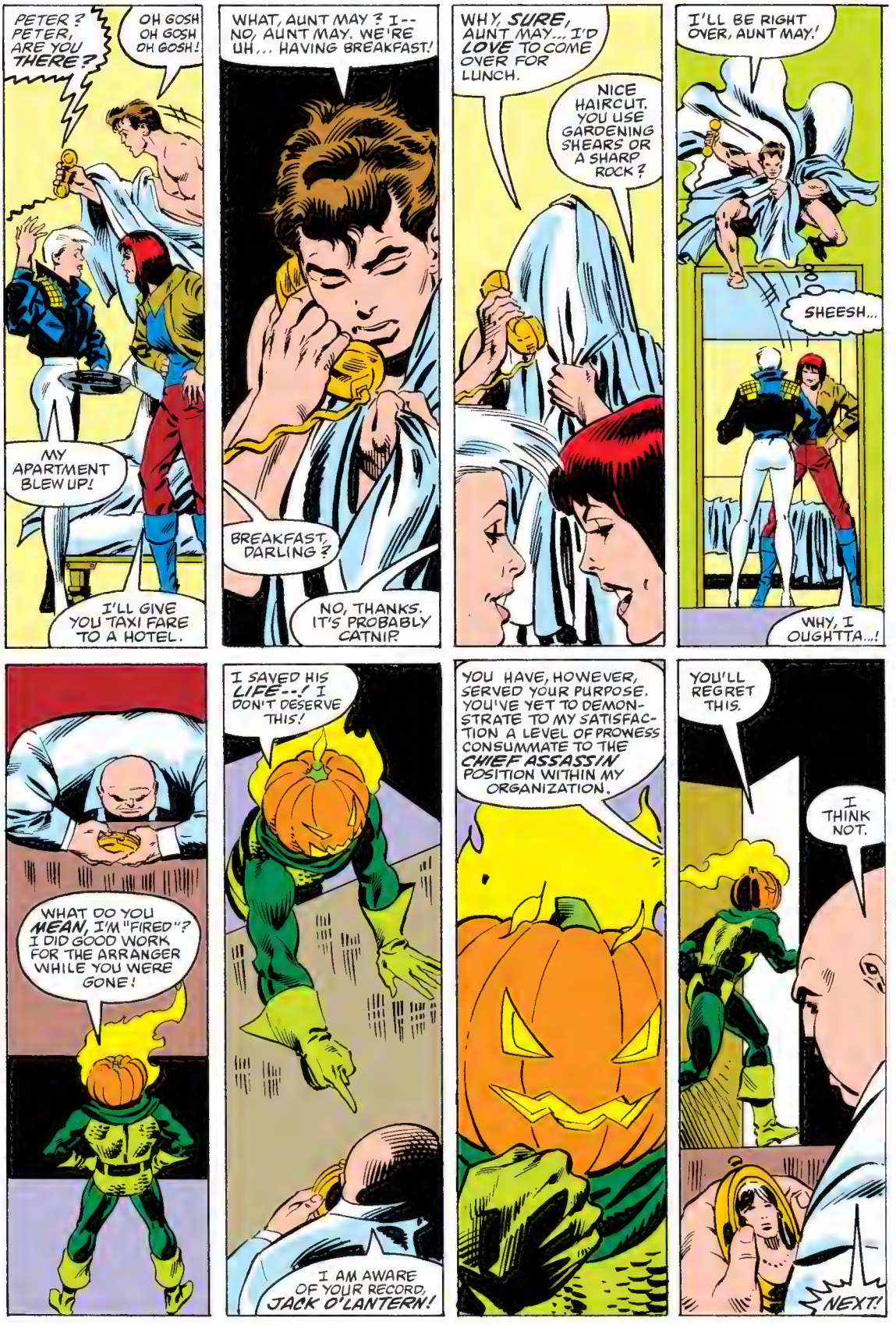
WAR

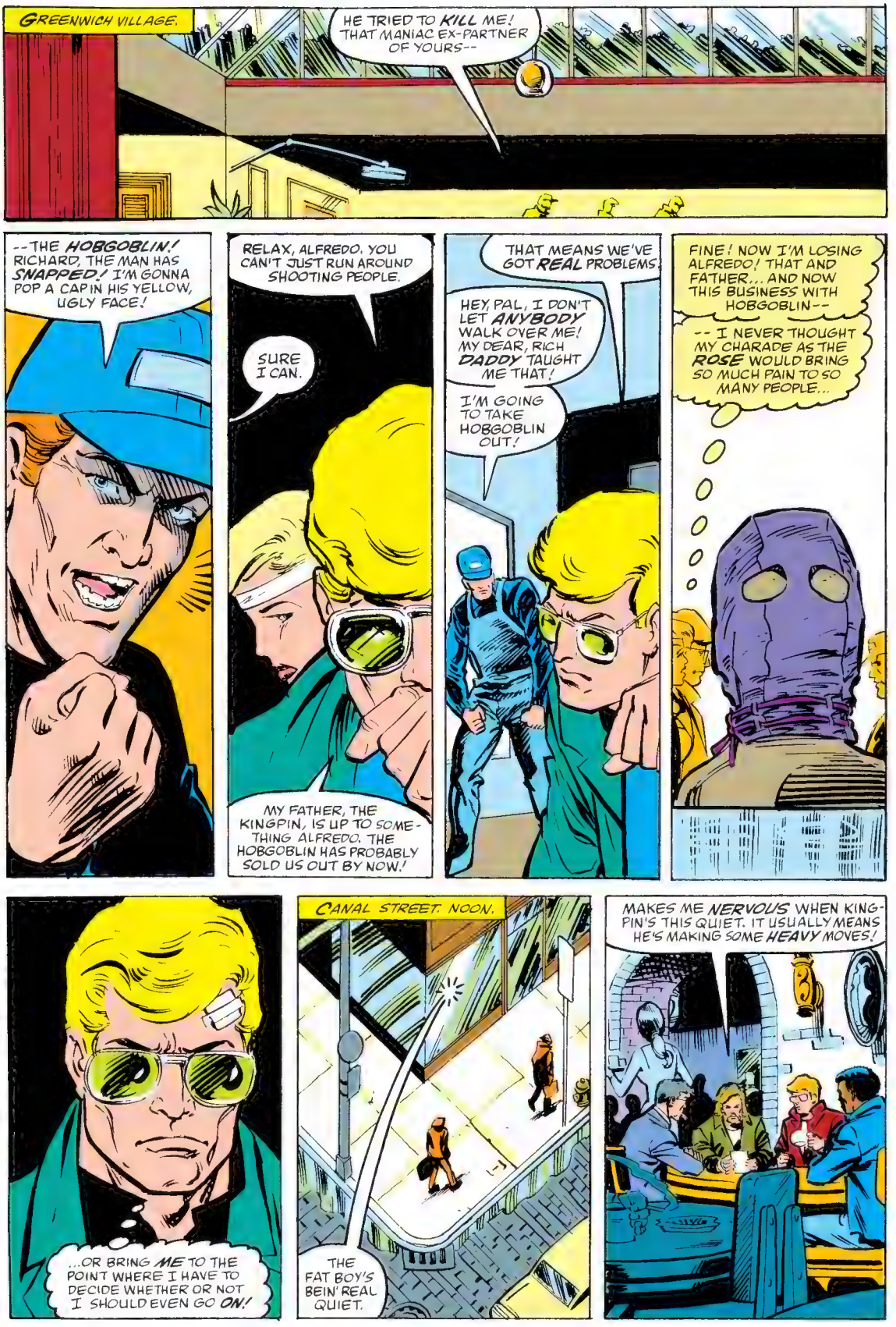
IN THE MIDST OF THE VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED, A LONE MAN STRUGGLES TO **CONTAIN** THE FIGHTING... TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT LIVES CAUGHT IN THE MYRIAD CROSSFIRES.

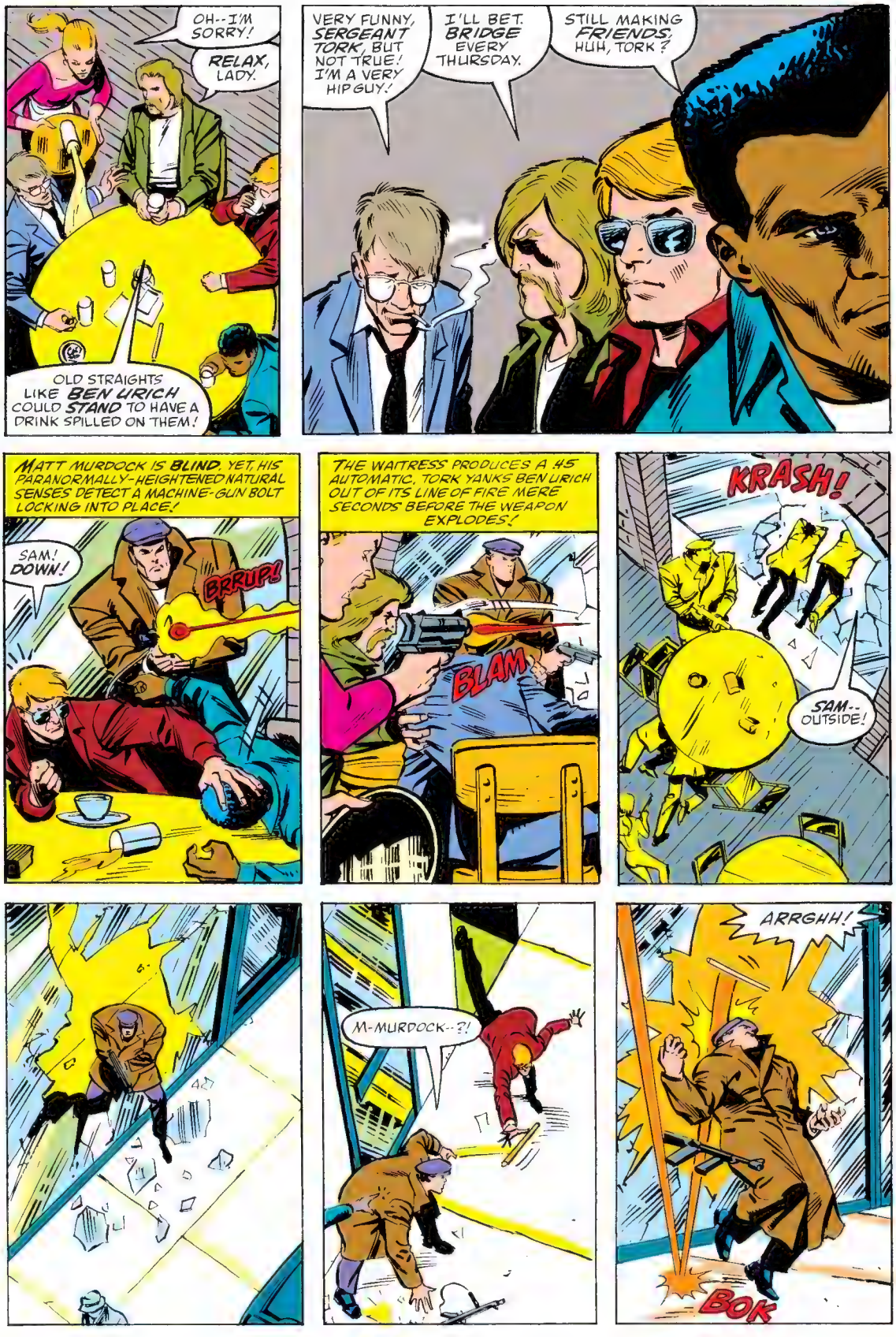
HIS NAME IS PETER PARKER. HE IS THE **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!**

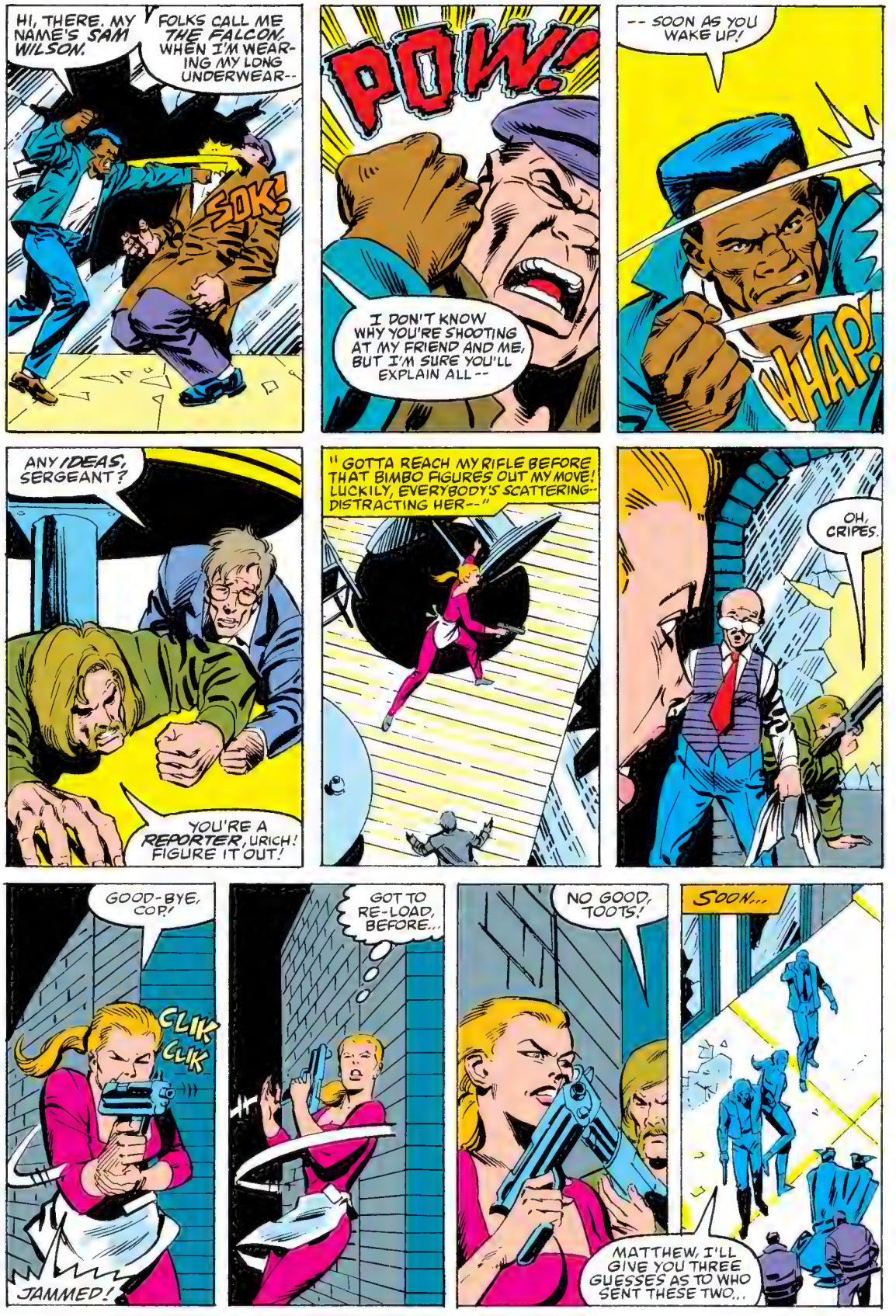
AND, SECLUDED BEHIND GLASS WALLS IN A STEEL TOWER...
... THE KINGPIN OF CRIME.
NEXT.
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, MR. FISK?
I HAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT YOUR TREATMENT OF MY WIFE, DOCTOR ZACHAR.
YOU... LEFT INSTRUCTIONS TO KEEP HER SEDATED... RELAXED SO THAT NO ONE WOULD... COULD...
YOU FRIGHTENED MY WIFE, DOCTOR ZACHAR. HER MIND IS STILL THAT OF A YOUNG GIRL...
SHE RECOGNIZED MY SON WHEN HE CAME TO VISIT. * YOU TOLD HER SHE'D DONE WRONG. YOU THREATTENED TO INCREASE HER MEDICATION UNLESS SHE DID AS SHE WAS TOLD.
* SEE ISSUE #286 FOR DETAILS -- JIM.
YOUR SON RICHARD... HE HAD BEGUN TO SUSPECT...
MY SON IS OF NO CONCERN TO YOU. MY WIFE WAS YOUR SOLE CHARGE.
YOU'VE FAILED ME MISERABLY, DOCTOR ZACHAR.
I... I'M SORRY... I...

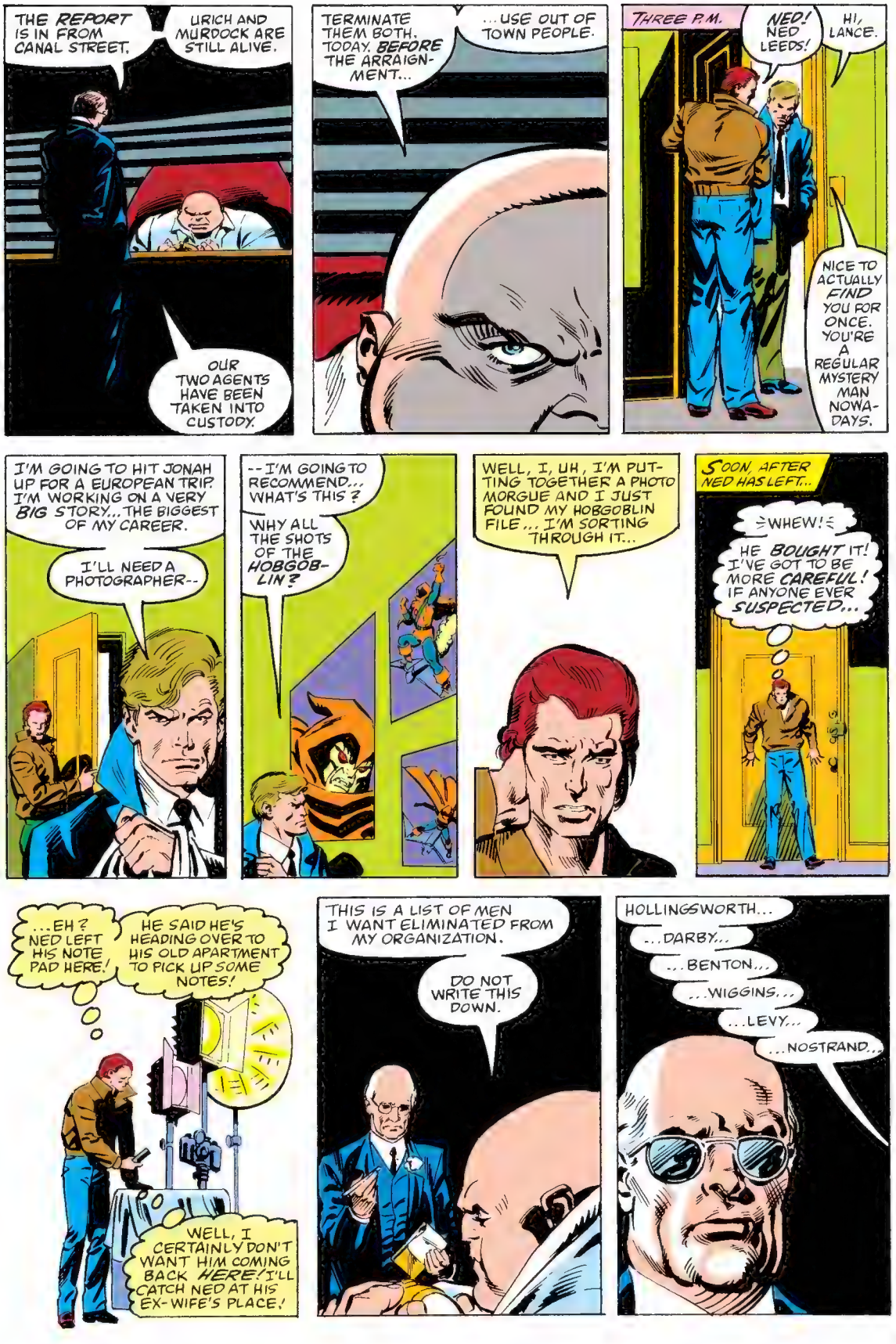
APOLOGY ACCEPTED.
ZZAP P!
NEXT!
CHELSEA... PETE'S PROBABLY ASLEEP! GOOD THING I STILL HAVE MY PASS KEY TO HIS APARTMENT.
I'VE BEEN REALLY RATTLED ABOUT HIS NEW "DEFENDER OF THE PEOPLE" BIT.
SOMETIMES I DON'T THINK PETE KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS! IN FACT, THE ONLY THING I'M SURE HE WANTS... IS WHAT EVERY MAN WANTS...
...BREAK-FAST IN BED!
AND, I'M--EH?
BLACK CAT? WHAT ARE YOU...?
OH-- YOU'RE MOLLY JO, RIGHT? WE MET THE OTHER DAY!
PETE'S ASLEEP.
MOLLY JO?!
SLAM
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE!?
PETER... I'M TALKING TO YOU!!
YAWN
Y'KNOW, I GET THAT GENERAL IMPRESSION...
PHONE, PETER. SOMEBODY NAMED "AUNT MAY"...?


PETER? PETER, ARE YOU THERE?
OH GOSH OH GOSH OH GOSH!
MY APARTMENT BLEW UP!
I'LL GIVE YOU TAXI FARE TO A HOTEL.
WHAT, AUNT MAY? I-- NO, AUNT MAY. WE'RE UH... HAVING BREAKFAST!
BREAKFAST, DARLING?
NO, THANKS. IT'S PROBABLY CATNIP.
WHY, SURE, AUNT MAY... I'D LOVE TO COME OVER FOR LUNCH.
NICE HAIRCUT. YOU USE GARDENING SHEARS OR A SHARP ROCK?
I'LL BE RIGHT OVER, AUNT MAY!
SHEESH...
WHY, I OUGHTTA...!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I'M "FIRED"? I DID GOOD WORK FOR THE ARRANGER WHILE YOU WERE GONE!
I SAVED HIS LIFE--! I DON'T DESERVE THIS!
I AM AWARE OF YOUR RECORD, JACK O'LANTERN!
YOU HAVE, HOWEVER, SERVED YOUR PURPOSE. YOU'VE YET TO DEMONSTRATE TO MY SATISFACTION A LEVEL OF PROWESS CONSUMMATE TO THE CHIEF ASSASSIN POSITION WITHIN MY ORGANIZATION.
YOU'LL REGRET THIS.
I THINK NOT.
NEXT!

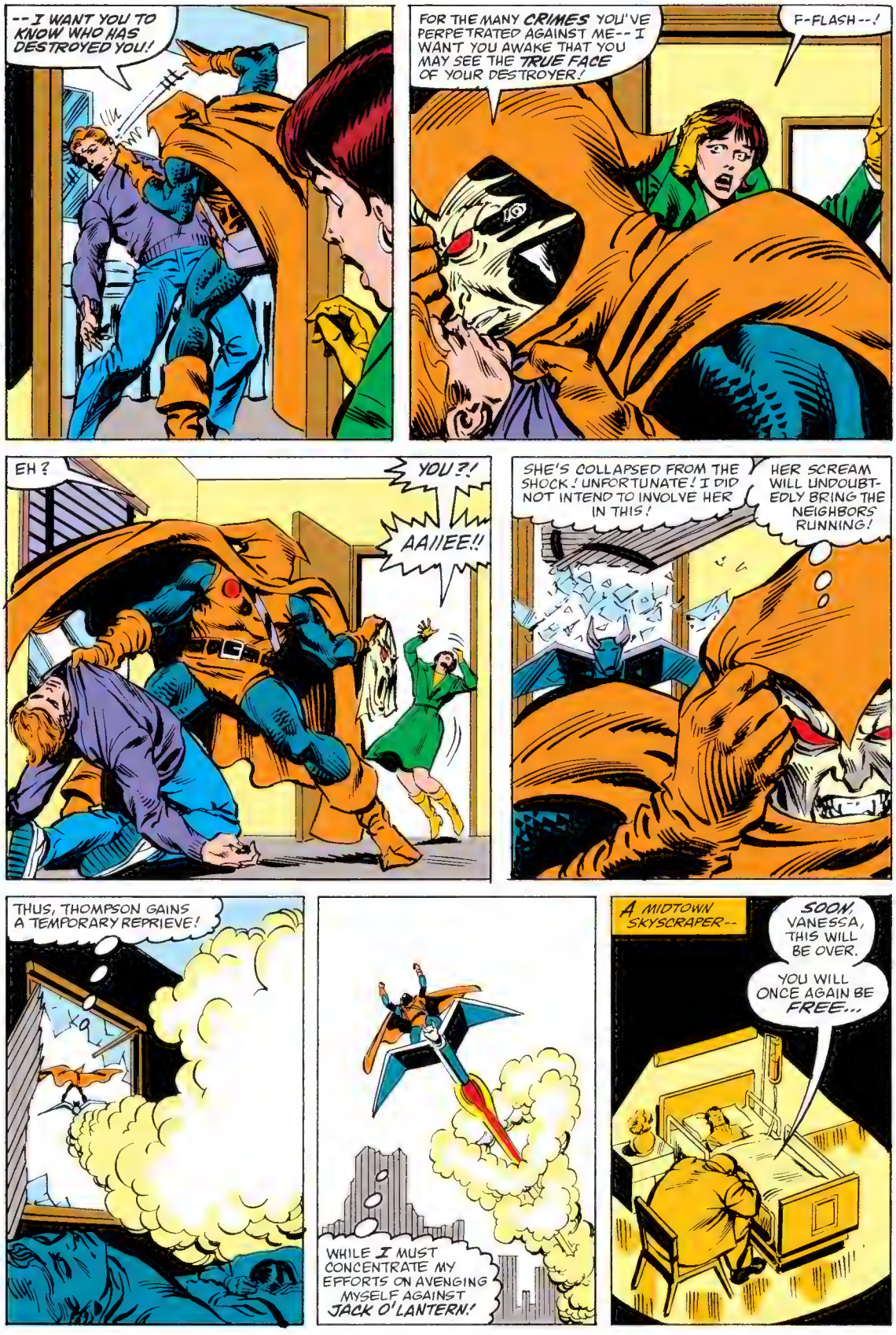

GREENWICH VILLAGE.
HE TRIED TO KILL ME! THAT MANIAC EX-PARTNER OF YOURS--
--THE HOBGOBLIN! RICHARD, THE MAN HAS SNAPPED! I'M GONNA POP A CAP IN HIS YELLOW, UGLY FACE!
RELAX, ALFREDO. YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AROUND SHOOTING PEOPLE.
SURE I CAN.
MY FATHER, THE KINGPIN, IS UP TO SOMETHING ALFREDO. THE HOBGOBLIN HAS PROBABLY SOLD US OUT BY NOW!
THAT MEANS WE'VE GOT REAL PROBLEMS.
HEY, PAL, I DON'T LET ANYBODY WALK OVER ME! MY DEAR, RICH DADDY TAUGHT ME THAT!
I'M GOING TO TAKE HOBGOBLIN OUT!
FINE! NOW I'M LOSING ALFREDO! THAT AND FATHER... AND NOW THIS BUSINESS WITH HOBGOBLIN--
-- I NEVER THOUGHT MY CHARADE AS THE ROSE WOULD BRING SO MUCH PAIN TO SO MANY PEOPLE...
...OR BRING ME TO THE POINT WHERE I HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD EVEN GO ON!
CANAL STREET. NOON.
THE FAT BOY'S BEIN' REAL QUIET.
MAKES ME NERVOUS WHEN KINGPIN'S THIS QUIET. IT USUALLY MEANS HE'S MAKING SOME HEAVY MOVES!


OH--I'M SORRY!
RELAX, LADY.
OLD STRAIGHTS LIKE BEN URICH COULD STAND TO HAVE A DRINK SPILLED ON THEM!
VERY FUNNY, SERGEANT TORK, BUT NOT TRUE! I'M A VERY HIP GUY.
I'LL BET. BRIDGE EVERY THURSDAY.
STILL MAKING FRIENDS, HUH, TORK?
MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND. YET, HIS PARANORMALLY-HEIGHTENED NATURAL SENSES DETECT A MACHINE-GUN BOLT LOCKING INTO PLACE!
SAM! DOWN!
BRRUP!
THE WAITRESS PRODUCES A .45 AUTOMATIC. TORK YANKS BEN URICH OUT OF ITS LINE OF FIRE MERE SECONDS BEFORE THE WEAPON EXPLODES!
BLAM
KRASH!
SAM--OUTSIDE!
M-MURDOCK--?!
ARRGHH!
BOK


HI, THERE. MY NAME'S SAM WILSON.
FOLKS CALL ME THE FALCON, WHEN I'M WEARING MY LONG UNDERWEAR--
SOK!
POW!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SHOOTING AT MY FRIEND AND ME, BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL EXPLAIN ALL--
-- SOON AS YOU WAKE UP!
WHAP!
ANY IDEAS, SERGEANT?
YOU'RE A REPORTER, URICH! FIGURE IT OUT!
"GOTTA REACH MY RIFLE BEFORE THAT BIMBO FIGURES OUT MY MOVE! LUCKILY, EVERYBODY'S SCATTERING--DISTRACTING HER--"
OH, CRIPES.
GOOD-BYE, COP!
CLIK CLIK
JAMMED!
GOT TO RE-LOAD, BEFORE...
NO GOOD, TOOTS!
SOON...
MATTHEW, I'LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES AS TO WHO SENT THESE TWO...


THE REPORT IS IN FROM CANAL STREET.
URICH AND MURDOCK ARE STILL ALIVE.
OUR TWO AGENTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.
TERMINATE THEM BOTH, TODAY. BEFORE THE ARRAIGNMENT...
...USE OUT OF TOWN PEOPLE.
THREE P.M.
NED! NED LEEDS!
HI, LANCE.
NICE TO ACTUALLY FIND YOU FOR ONCE. YOU'RE A REGULAR MYSTERY MAN NOWADAYS.
I'M GOING TO HIT JONAH UP FOR A EUROPEAN TRIP. I'M WORKING ON A VERY BIG STORY... THE BIGGEST OF MY CAREER.
I'LL NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER--
--I'M GOING TO RECOMMEND... WHAT'S THIS?
WHY ALL THE SHOTS OF THE HOBGOBLIN?
WELL, I, UH, I'M PUTTING TOGETHER A PHOTO MORGUE AND I JUST FOUND MY HOBGOBLIN FILE... I'M SORTING THROUGH IT...
SOON, AFTER NED HAS LEFT...
≥WHEW!≤
HE BOUGHT IT! I'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL! IF ANYONE EVER SUSPECTED...
...EH? NED LEFT HIS NOTE PAD HERE!
HE SAID HE'S HEADING OVER TO HIS OLD APARTMENT TO PICK UP SOME NOTES!
WELL, I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT HIM COMING BACK HERE! I'LL CATCH NED AT HIS EX-WIFE'S PLACE!
THIS IS A LIST OF MEN I WANT ELIMINATED FROM MY ORGANIZATION.
DO NOT WRITE THIS DOWN.
HOLLINGSWORTH...
...DARBY...
...BENTON...
...WIGGINS...
...LEVY...
...NOSTRAND...

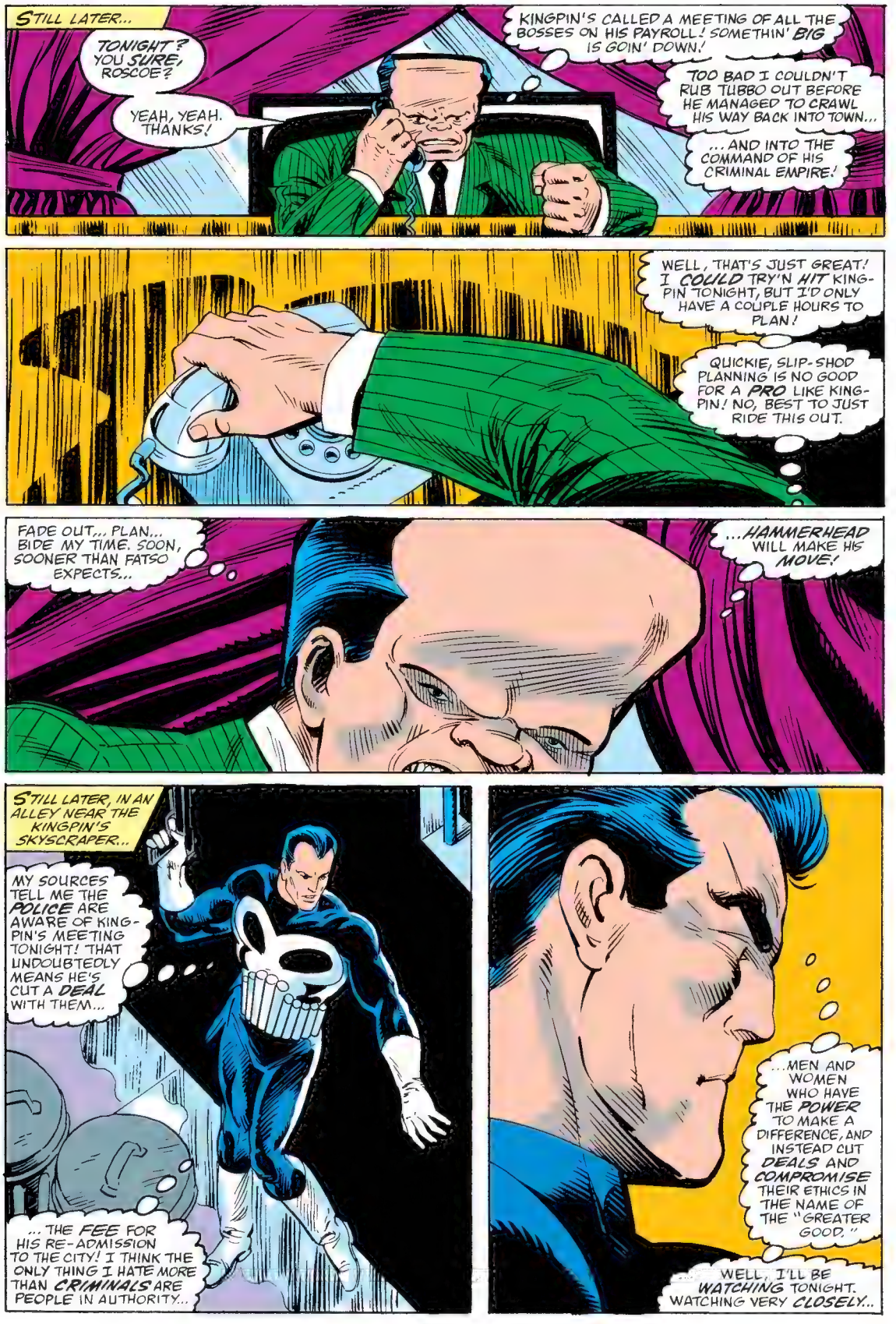
MEANWHILE...
FLASH THOMPSON, YOU'D BETTER LET ME GO! WITHOUT GROCERIES, WE'LL STARVE!
DON'T BE GONE TOO LONG, BETTY--
-- I STOP BREATHING WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND. YOU'VE GIVEN ME SHELTER AND SUPPORT SINCE JACK O'LANTERN BROKE ME OUT OF JAIL...*
YOU'VE STOOD BESIDE ME, WHILE EVERYONE ELSE THINKS I'M THE HOBGOBLIN!**
*SEE ISSUE #280. **FLASH WAS ACCUSED OF BEING THE HOBGOBLIN IN ISH #276. -- JIM.
I'LL KEEP MY SMILE ON 'TIL YOU GET BACK!
FLASH HAS TURNED AROUND COMPLETELY! WHEN HE CAME TO ME HE WAS FRIGHTENED AND DISORIENTED!
I DON'T KNOW IF HIDING HIM AT MY APARTMENT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, BUT FLASH CAN'T POSSIBLY BEGIN TO HELP HIMSELF UNTIL HE HAS A CHANCE TO PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER!
NED'S PLACE IS RIGHT ACROSS THE WAY--
HEY, THERE'S BETTY, NED'S ESTRANGED WIFE! AND... THERE, IN THE WINDOW... FLASH THOMPSON!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT AN INCREDIBLE STROKE OF LUCK!
AT LAST, I HAVE MY CHANCE!
...JENKINS...
...WILLIAMS...
...STONE...
...MATOS...
...NEVEL...
...THORTON...
...VANDROSS...
A HALF-HOUR LATER...
FLASH! FLASH, YOU LUG... HELP ME WITH THESE BAGS--
WAKE UP, CRETIN!
WHAT ON EARTH...?
OPEN YOUR EYES--!


--I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHO HAS DESTROYED YOU!
FOR THE MANY CRIMES YOU'VE PERPETRATED AGAINST ME-- I WANT YOU AWAKE THAT YOU MAY SEE THE TRUE FACE OF YOUR DESTROYER!
F-FLASH--!
EH?
YOU?!
AAIIEE!!
SHE'S COLLAPSED FROM THE SHOCK! UNFORTUNATE! I DID NOT INTEND TO INVOLVE HER IN THIS!
HER SCREAM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BRING THE NEIGHBORS RUNNING!
THUS, THOMPSON GAINS A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE!
WHILE I MUST CONCENTRATE MY EFFORTS ON AVENGING MYSELF AGAINST JACK O'LANTERN!
A MIDTOWN SKYSCRAPER--
SOON, VANESSA, THIS WILL BE OVER.
YOU WILL ONCE AGAIN BE FREE...

NOON. FOREST HILLS.
HAH! BAD MOVE, SON!
MILK AND COOKIES, BOYS!
DON'T DISTRACT HIM, MAY. YOUNG PETER, HERE, IS ABOUT TO GET WIPED OUT!
BELIEVE IT!
MR. CHEKOV'S SLAUGHTERING ME AT CHESS BECAUSE MY MIND'S REALLY NOT ON THE GAME! THAT SCENE AT MY APARTMENT THIS MORNING WAS JUST TOO MUCH! THE BLACK CAT BULLDOZED HER WAY INTO MY PLACE AFTER HER APARTMENT WAS FIREBOMBED, * AND, EVEN THOUGH MARY JANE AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FORMAL COMMITMENT...
*PPTSSM #123 -- JIM.
...I FELT REALLY SKEEVY WHEN SHE WALKED IN AND FOUND FELICIA THERE! I HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR...OR DO I?
TELEPHONE, PETER! IT'S THAT NICE MATT MURDOCK!
I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME HERE!
GOOD-BYE!
MURDOCK AND YOU HAVE A FALLING OUT, PETER?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
SLAM!
LATER, AT JACK O'LANTERN'S TEMPORARY BASE OF OPERATIONS...
KINGPIN CALLED ME INADEQUATE! ME JACK O'LANTERN! I'VE BEEN HIRED BY LEADERS ALL OVER THIS PLANET TO DO TOUGH JOBS THEIR OWN PEOPLE COULDN'T HANDLE!
AND, NOW I'M DUMPED FROM A CUSHY, TWO-BIT GIG LIKE--WHAT?!
CRASH!
HOBGOBLIN! HERE?!
YES, JACK O'-LANTERN...
...HERE TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR DE-SERTING ME THE OTHER NIGHT!
YOU LUNATIC! YOU SAW SPIDER-MAN, AND WANTED TO ATTACK HIM! *
*ISSUE # 286 -- JIM.

SUDDENLY...
K-POW!
ALFREDO?!
THOUGH SHIELDED BY HIS COSTUME'S CHAIN MAIL, THE IMPACT OF ALFREDO'S GUNSHOT KNOCKS THE HOBGOBLIN TO THE FLOOR!
UH-UHNN, HOBGOBLIN--NO TRICKS THIS TIME! YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE WHEN YOU CROSSED ME!
KA-BOOM!
THIS JAMMING DEVICE INHIBITS YOUR COSTUME'S CYBERNETIC WEAPONRY, AND DISABLES THAT GLIDER OF YOURS!
IN OTHER WORDS, JERK, YOU'VE HAD IT!
NO!
I MUST BE THE ONE WHO TAKES THE GOBLIN OUT!
WHAT AN IDIOT! I DROPPED MY INHIBITOR--HOBBY WILL BE BACK TO FULL POWER--
"--ANY SECOND NOW!"
FOOL! YOU CANNOT DESTROY THE HOBGOBLIN!
COME BACK YOU COWARD!
RETURN I SHALL, JACK-O'LANTERN! WAIT AND WONDER!
A PROTRACTED BATTLE WILL BE A WASTE OF MY ENERGIES! I'M ON THE VERGE OF THE BIGGEST COUP IN THE UNDERWORLD'S HISTORY!
NOTHING MUST JEOPARDIZE THOSE PLANS! JACK O'LANTERN AND ALFREDO WILL HAVE TO WAIT!

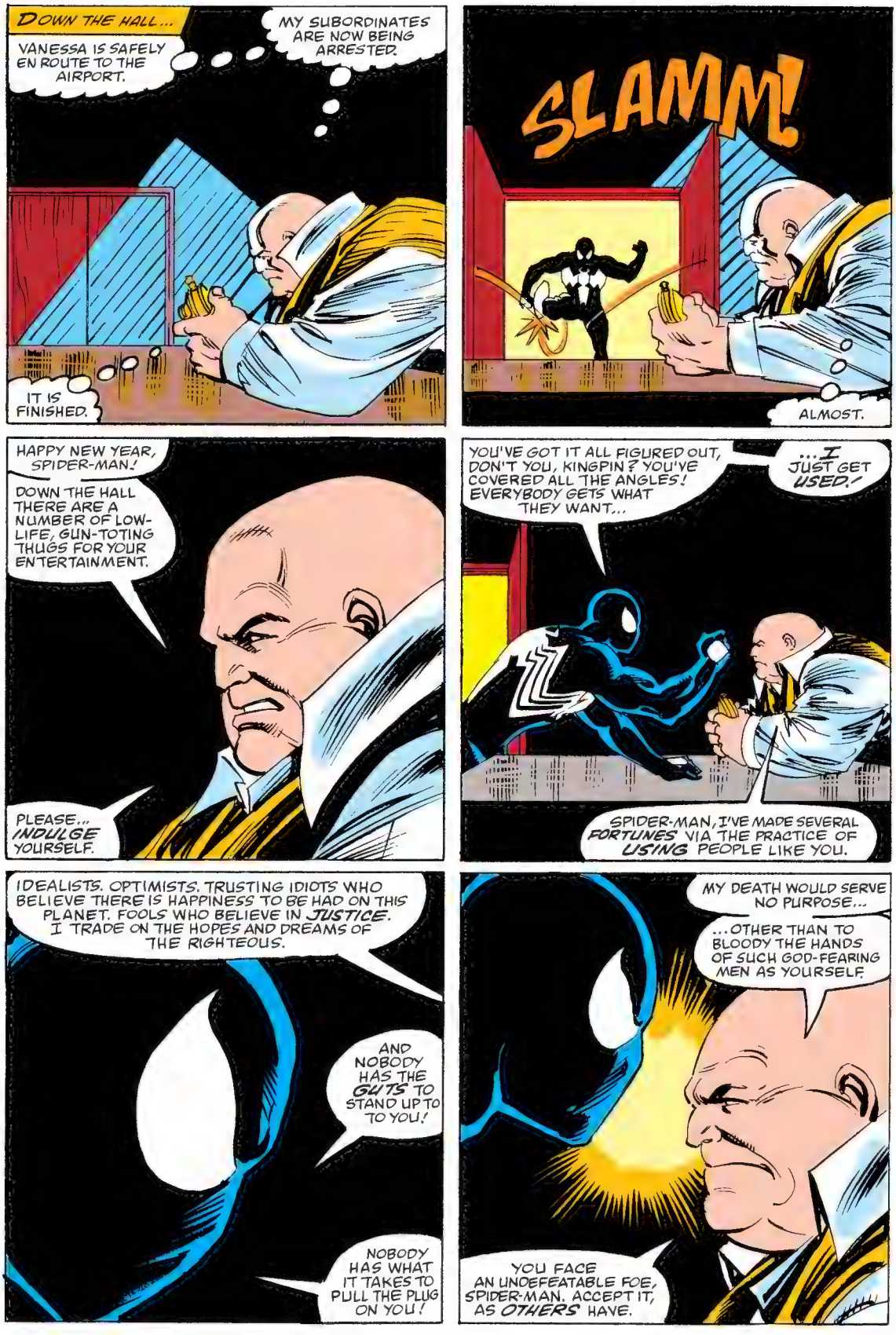
ALFREDO JUST CALLED. HE ALMOST HAD HOBGOBLIN, BUT JACK O'LANTERN RUINED IT!
NOW HOBGOBLIN WILL THINK THE ROSE WAS BEHIND ALFREDO'S ATTACK... AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RETALIATE!
THIS MESS JUST KEEPS GROWING!
LOOK, DINA, HOBGOBLIN DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS LOFT...
I'VE KEPT IT A SECRET, PREFERRING TO OPERATE FROM MY MIDTOWN PENTHOUSE!
STILL, MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT--
BBRRRRRRRR
THAT'S THE ROSE'S DIRECT LINE... ONLY VARLEY CALLS ME ON THAT PHONE!
YES, MR. VARLEY?
RICHARD, THIS IS YOUR FATHER. YOU MUST COME IMMEDIATELY.
HELL'S KITCHEN, LATE AFTERNOON...
ANY O' YOU GUYS BRING A DECK OF CARDS?
DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, DOES IT?
WELL, MATT, ARE YOU SURPRISED?
YOU'VE MESSED WITH SPIDER-MAN'S HEAD ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM DISLIKE YOU A WHOLE LOT.
YOUR ATTITUDE REALLY STINKS! YOU TREATED SPIDEY LIKE A KID! LIKE YOU WERE THE "SERIOUS ADULT" AND HE WAS SOME KIND OF JERK.
NOW YOU EXPECT HIM TO COME JUST BECAUSE YOU CALLED!
IT'S OKAY, FALCON-- I CAN SPEAK FOR MYSELF!
SPIDER-MAN... AND THE BLACK CAT!
SPIDER-MAN... WAIT...
NO, YOU WAIT, MISTER! YOU'VE GOT A HECUVA LOT OF NERVE CALLING ME--
NO GAMES THIS TIME SPIDER-MAN! NO TRICKS! IT'S THE KINGPIN!
HE'S GONNA KILL EVERY ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS TONIGHT! IT'S HIS BIG HOUSE-CLEANING MOVE! YOU WANT TO NAIL THIS GUY, DON'T YOU? WELL... HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!


STILL LATER...
TONIGHT? YOU SURE, ROSCOE?
YEAH, YEAH. THANKS!
KINGPIN'S CALLED A MEETING OF ALL THE BOSSES ON HIS PAYROLL! SOMETHIN' BIG IS GOIN' DOWN!
TOO BAD I COULDN'T RUB TUBBO OUT BEFORE HE MANAGED TO CRAWL HIS WAY BACK INTO TOWN...
...AND INTO THE COMMAND OF HIS CRIMINAL EMPIRE!
WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT! I COULD TRY'N HIT KINGPIN TONIGHT, BUT I'D ONLY HAVE A COUPLE HOURS TO PLAN!
QUICKIE, SLIP-SHOD PLANNING IS NO GOOD FOR A PRO LIKE KINGPIN! NO, BEST TO JUST RIDE THIS OUT.
FADE OUT... PLAN... BIDE MY TIME. SOON, SOONER THAN FATSO EXPECTS...
...HAMMERHEAD WILL MAKE HIS MOVE!
STILL LATER, IN AN ALLEY NEAR THE KINGPIN'S SKYSCRAPER...
MY SOURCES TELL ME THE POLICE ARE AWARE OF KINGPIN'S MEETING TONIGHT! THAT UNDOUBTEDLY MEANS HE'S CUT A DEAL WITH THEM...
...THE FEE FOR HIS RE-ADMISSION TO THE CITY! I THINK THE ONLY THING I HATE MORE THAN CRIMINALS ARE PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY...
...MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND INSTEAD CUT DEALS AND COMPROMISE THEIR ETHICS IN THE NAME OF THE "GREATER GOOD."
...WELL, I'LL BE WATCHING TONIGHT. WATCHING VERY CLOSELY...

ELEVEN FORTY-FIVE.
IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, VANESSA, A NEW YEAR WILL DAWN FOR THIS CITY. AND, A NEW LIFE FOR YOU SHALL BEGIN AS WELL.
IS THAT TRUE, FATHER...?
WILL THE NEW YEAR BRING A NEW BEGINNING... OR PERPETUATE THE STATUS QUO?
TO THE NARROW-MINDED, EVEN THE MOST SWEEPING CHANGE ESCAPES NOTICE, RICHARD.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?
THAT YOU, THE "ROSE," ARE ACTUALLY RICHARD FISK... MY SON? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
I CALLED SO THAT YOU MAY SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR MOTHER... FOREVER.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO HER, FATHER. I KNOW YOU'RE KEEPING HER LIKE THAT!
AND NOW YOU'VE LOWERED YOURSELF TO THREATENING PEOPLE WITH GUNS? TO SHOOTING POLICE OFFICERS?
DON'T RUN THAT "HOLIER-THAN-THOU" BIT ON ME, FATHER! YOU'VE DONE FAR WORSE!
AND, TONIGHT, MY PLAN IS TO DO SOME GOOD FOR THIS CITY... AND FOR YOUR MOTHER!
VANESSA HAD LEFT ME RECENTLY. *
*SEE THE DAREDEVIL GRAPHIC NOVEL--JIM.
SHE'D BEGUN A NEW LIFE SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE. I, OF COURSE, KEPT HER UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
OF COURSE.
I BECAME AWARE OF A PLAN TO KILL YOUR MOTHER.
IN RETALIATION FOR SOME BUSINESS OF YOURS, NO DOUBT.
IRRELEVANT. I HAD YOUR MOTHER RETURNED TO NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY WHILE I PERSONALLY ATTENDED TO HER WOULD-BE ATTACKERS!
I KEPT HER IN THIS STATE TO PREVENT HER FROM BEING SHOCKED BY HER SUDDEN RETURN. YOUR MOTHER IS STILL RECOVERING, AND AS SUCH IS IN A FRAGILE STATE OF MIND!
TONIGHT VANESSA WILL REGAIN HER FREEDOM. AN AMBULANCE WAITS TO TRANSPORT HER TO THE AIRPORT.
SO, THIS AFFAIR YOU'RE HOSTING--?
SERVES A TWOFOLD PURPOSE. TO DISTRACT MY WAYWARD LIEUTENANTS WHILE VANESSA IS SAFELY TRANSPORTED...
...AND TO DELIVER TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THIS CITY A TOKEN GESTURE IN RETURN FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN AIDING MY RETURN. THE GANG WAR ENDS AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!

TEN BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
THIS IS THE BLIND SIDE OF THE KINGPIN'S SKYSCRAPER.
THIS IS THE LOBBY.
GOOD EVENING, MR. HOLLINGSWORTH, MR. DARBY, MR. BENTON...
"...MR. SOLQUIST, MR. LEVY, MR. NOSTRAND..
"...MR. JENKINS, MR. WILLIAMS, MR. STONE...
THWIPP!
"...MR. MATOS... MR. NEVEL, MR. THORNTON, MR. VANDROSS..
MIDNIGHT.
HAPPY NEW YEAR, GENTLE-MEN.
YOU'RE ALL FIRED.
KILL THEM ALL.
EXIT
THWIPP!
WHA--?
SPIDER-MAN!! WITH THREE OTHER COSTUMED FREAKS!!
SOON, ON THE STREET BELOW...
VANESSA WILL BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE AIRPORT... AND FROM THERE TO SAFETY IN EUROPE.
I WILL LONG FOR HER EVERY RE-MAINING DAY OF MY LIFE.
LANCE
DAREDEVIL! DAREDEVIL! I THINK I'VE FIGURED THIS ONE OUT!
I'VE GOT A THEORY!
BOK!
WAP!
HANG ON, SPIDER-MAN...
...I'M A LITTLE BUSY OVER HERE!

MATT-- THE AMBULANCE JUST CRUISED BY. NOBODY FOLLOWING.
VANESSA'S SAFELY AWAY.
GOOD, TORK! SEND IN THE TROOPS!
I COPY. THE STORM-TROOPERS ARE ON THEIR WAY!
THE SOONER, THE BETTER, TORK. THIS ROOM'S A COMPLETE LOSS!
EVEN AS DAREDEVIL SPEAKS, RIOT POLICE STORM THE LOBBY!
MOVE IT, YOU GUYS! THOSE PEOPLE NEED HELP UP THERE!
MY THEORY, DD-- KINGPIN CUT SOME KINDA DEAL. HE COMES BACK, THE FEDS GET HIS TOP LIEUTENANTS!
THE GANG WAR ENDS, KINGY'S GOT TO REBUILD HIS EMPIRE... SO, AT LEAST, FOR A WHILE, THE GOOD GUYS WIN!
KINGY SETS UP THIS PARTY, MAKES LIKE HE'S GONNA SHOOT EVERYBODY-- BUT ALL HIS PEOPLE HAVE BLANKS IN THEIR GUNS!
THEN WE ARRIVE AND "SAVE" THE LIEUTENANTS!
THE COPS BUST 'EM, AND SINCE WE "SAVED" THEM FROM KINGPIN, THESE DOPES ROLL OVER AND TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE!
AHA! RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, THE LOCAL GENDARMES!
GOTTA TELL YOU, DD-- YOU REALLY STINK. USING ME... AGAIN AND AGAIN!
HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT?!

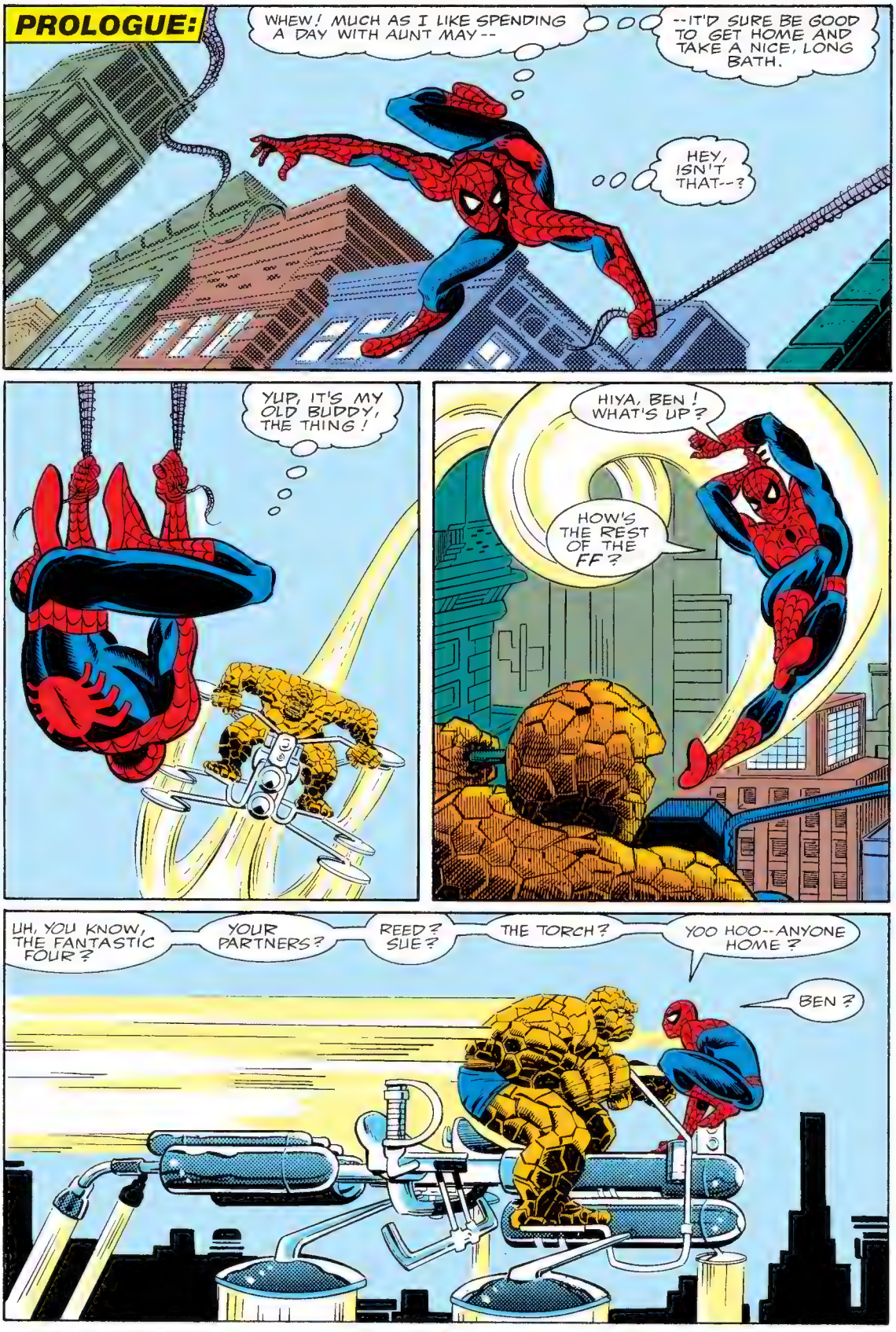

DOWN THE HALL...
VANESSA IS SAFELY EN ROUTE TO THE AIRPORT.
MY SUBORDINATES ARE NOW BEING ARRESTED.
IT IS FINISHED.
SLAMM!
ALMOST.
HAPPY NEW YEAR, SPIDER-MAN!
DOWN THE HALL THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LOW-LIFE, GUN-TOTING THUGS FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.
PLEASE... INDULGE YOURSELF.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT, DON'T YOU, KINGPIN? YOU'VE COVERED ALL THE ANGLES! EVERYBODY GETS WHAT THEY WANT...
...I JUST GET USED!
SPIDER-MAN, I'VE MADE SEVERAL FORTUNES VIA THE PRACTICE OF USING PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
IDEALISTS. OPTIMISTS. TRUSTING IDIOTS WHO BELIEVE THERE IS HAPPINESS TO BE HAD ON THIS PLANET. FOOLS WHO BELIEVE IN JUSTICE. I TRADE ON THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF THE RIGHTEOUS.
AND NOBODY HAS THE GUTS TO STAND UP TO TO YOU!
NOBODY HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO PULL THE PLUG ON YOU!
MY DEATH WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE...
...OTHER THAN TO BLOODY THE HANDS OF SUCH GOD-FEARING MEN AS YOURSELF.
YOU FACE AN UNDEFEATABLE FOE, SPIDER-MAN. ACCEPT IT, AS OTHERS HAVE.

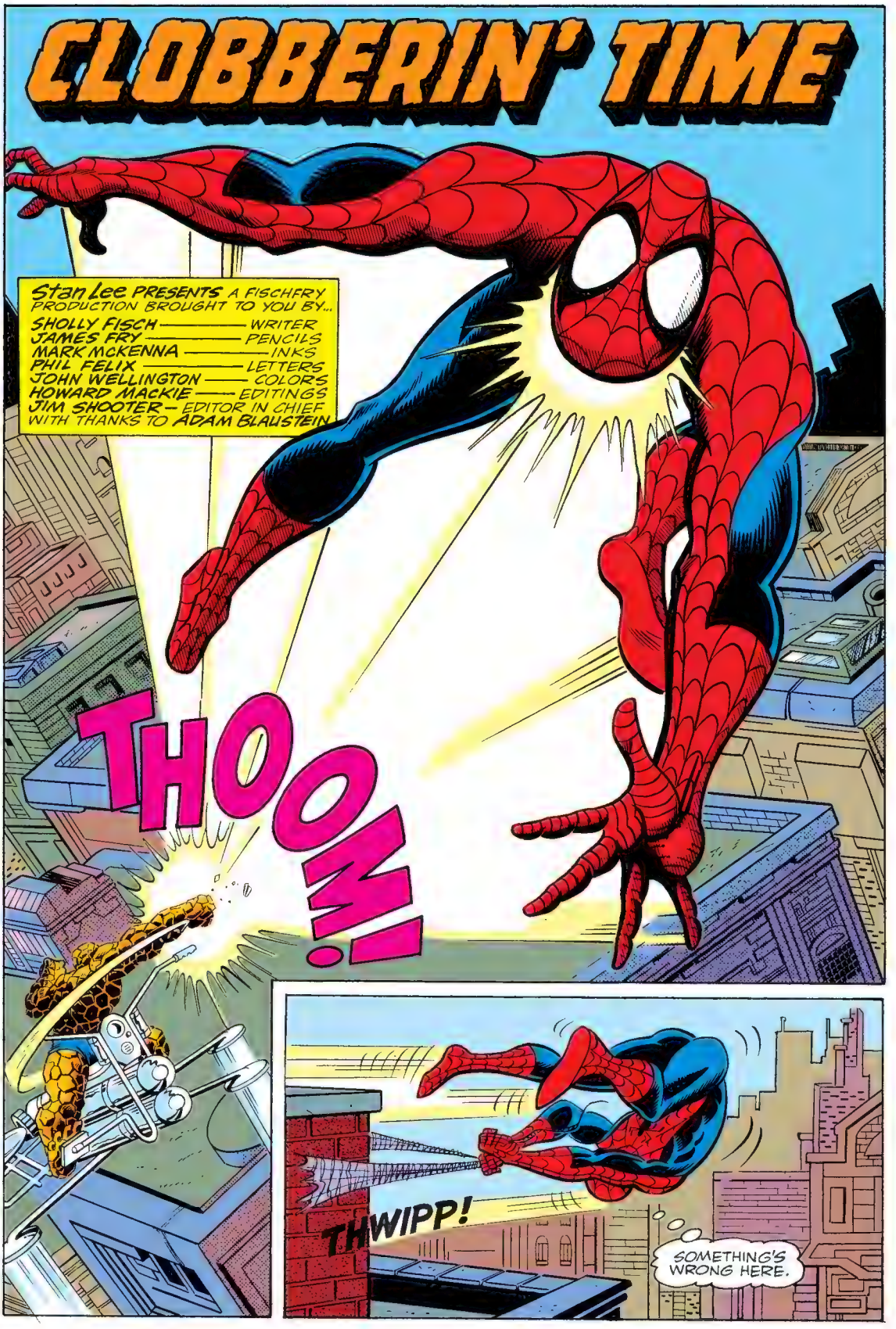
GET UP... GET UP FROM BEHIND THAT DESK SO I CAN SHOVE YOUR WORDS DOWN YOUR FAT THROAT!
I THINK NOT.
SPIDER-MAN... BACK OFF!
DON'T WORRY, DAREDEVIL... I'M NOT GOING TO KILL HIM!
G'HEAD, I'LL CLOSE MY EYES.
TAKE HIM! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE HIM!
DAREDEVIL--
SPIDER-MAN, THIS WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING. WE WON TONIGHT, DON'T YOU SEE!?
NO!!
I DON'T SEE AT ALL!!
KRASSH!
ONE DAY, MISTER!
ME AND YOU!
ONE DAY YOU'RE GONNA PUSH ME TOO FAR!
AND, ON THAT DAY, HEAVEN HELP US BOTH!
MY CRYSTAL IMAGE OF VANESSA... SHATTERED AND RUINED. HOW RIDICULOUSLY SYMBOLIC.
PROUD OF YOURSELF?
I SHOULD ASK YOU THAT.

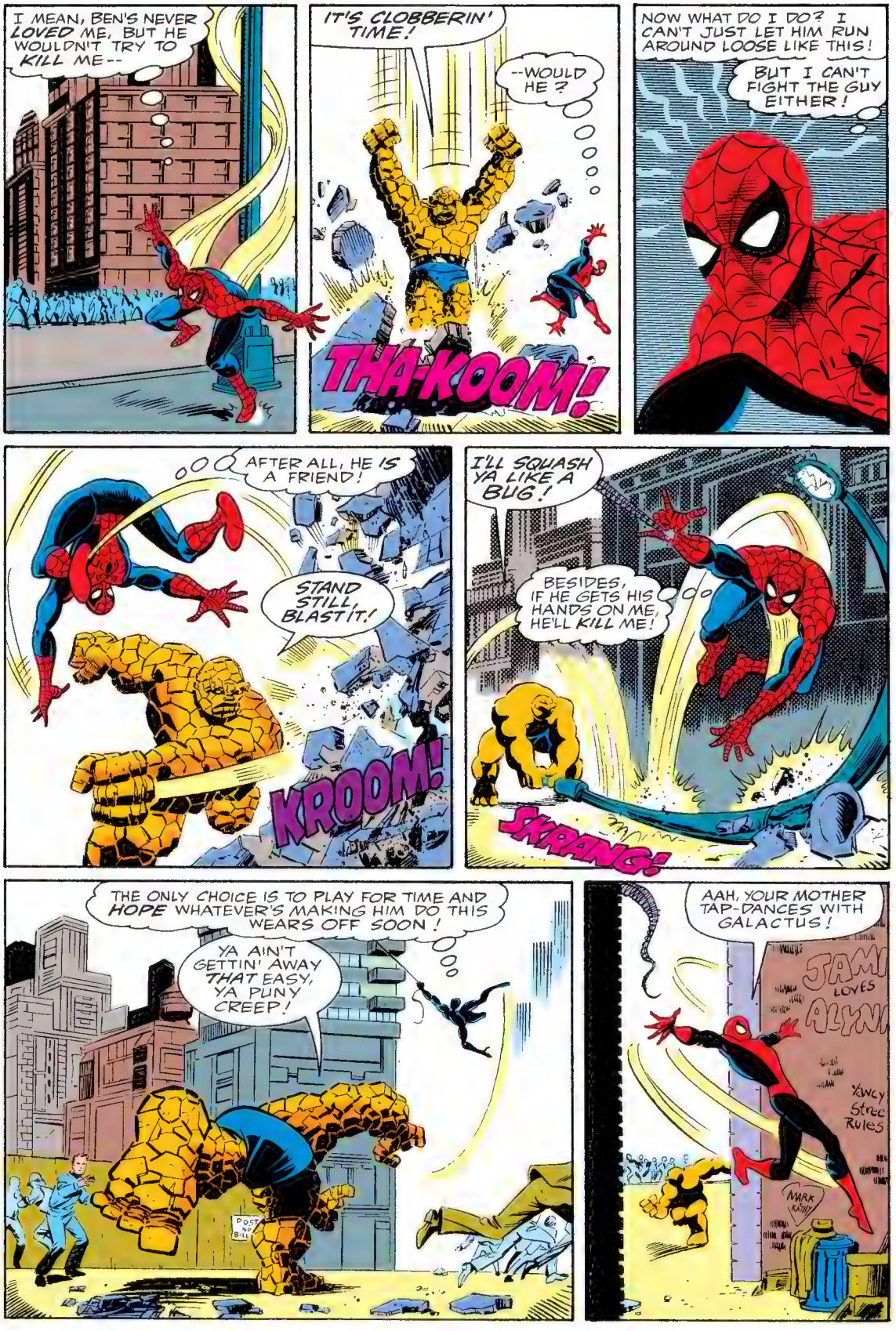
I'M MORE ASHAMED OF MYSELF RIGHT NOW THAN I'VE EVER BEEN. I DID WHAT WAS RIGHT... WHAT HAD TO BE DONE...
...BUT THE PRICE IS A HIGH ONE.
THE ROAD TO NOBILITY IS LINED WITH SUCH PITFALLS, MURDOCK. THE BOND OF HATRED WE SHARE HAS BEEN, THIS NIGHT, MITIGATED BY OUR PURSUIT OF OUR PERSONAL GOALS.
YOU HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL INROAD INTO MY CRIMINAL EMPIRE. I HAVE SECURED MY WIFE'S FREEDOM AND GUARANTEED HER SAFETY.
AND, SPIDER-MAN?
HE IS A MERE BOY. A NAIVE, WIDE-EYED CHILD. HE WILL LEARN.
YES, SOME DAY, HE'LL BE JUST LIKE US, WON'T HE?
AND, I'LL HAVE ONLY MYSELF TO BLAME FOR THAT!
SORRY ABOUT YOUR CRYSTAL, KINGPIN. BUT, IF YOU TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE RUINED GLASS, MAYBE YOU'LL SEE A REFLECTION OF YOUR OWN LIFE... WHAT AN AWFUL WASTE IT'S BECOME!
MAYBE THE BROKEN GLASS WILL TEACH YOU A LESSON.
NEXT: NO TRICKS! NO GIMMICKS! THIS TIME WE MEAN IT!
THE HOBGOBLIN REVEALED!

Marvel Press Poster #29 – Black Cat (1986)
by Joe Jusko

Special Bonus: *Marvel Tales* #198 (April 1987) featured an all-new Spider-Man backup story co-starring the Thing.


PROLOGUE:
WHEW! MUCH AS I LIKE SPENDING A DAY WITH AUNT MAY--
--IT'D SURE BE GOOD TO GET HOME AND TAKE A NICE, LONG BATH.
HEY, ISN'T THAT--?
YUP, IT'S MY OLD BUDDY, THE THING!
HIYA, BEN! WHAT'S UP?
HOW'S THE REST OF THE FF?
UH, YOU KNOW, THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
YOUR PARTNERS?
REED? SUE?
THE TORCH?
YOO HOO--ANYONE HOME?
BEN?


CLOBBERIN' TIME
Stan Lee PRESENTS A FISCHFRY PRODUCTION BROUGHT TO YOU BY...
SHOLLY FISCH — WRITER
JAMES FRY — PENCILS
MARK McKENNA — INKS
PHIL FELIX — LETTERS
JOHN WELLINGTON — COLORS
HOWARD MACKIE — EDITINGS
JIM SHOOTER — EDITOR IN CHIEF
WITH THANKS TO ADAM BLAUSTEIN
THOOM!
THWIPP!
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE.


I MEAN, BEN'S NEVER LOVED ME, BUT HE WOULDN'T TRY TO KILL ME--
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
--WOULD HE?
THA-KOOM!
NOW WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T JUST LET HIM RUN AROUND LOOSE LIKE THIS!
BUT I CAN'T FIGHT THE GUY EITHER!
AFTER ALL, HE IS A FRIEND!
STAND STILL, BLAST IT!
KROOM!
I'LL SQUASH YA LIKE A BUG!
BESIDES, IF HE GETS HIS HANDS ON ME, HE'LL KILL ME!
SKRANG!
THE ONLY CHOICE IS TO PLAY FOR TIME AND HOPE WHATEVER'S MAKING HIM DO THIS WEARS OFF SOON!
YA AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY THAT EASY, YA PUNY CREEP!
POST NO BILL
AAH, YOUR MOTHER TAP-DANCES WITH GALACTUS!
SAM LOVES ALYN
MARK KATHY

WHERE--?
HE WENT THAT WAY!
THANKS, PAL!
WHAT THE--?
AW, NO!
BLANG!
COME BACK HERE, YA BLASTED INSECT!
NUTS! DIDN'T EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF REACH!
SAY, ISN'T THAT SPIDER-MAN?
NAH, MUST BE A PUBLICITY STUNT!

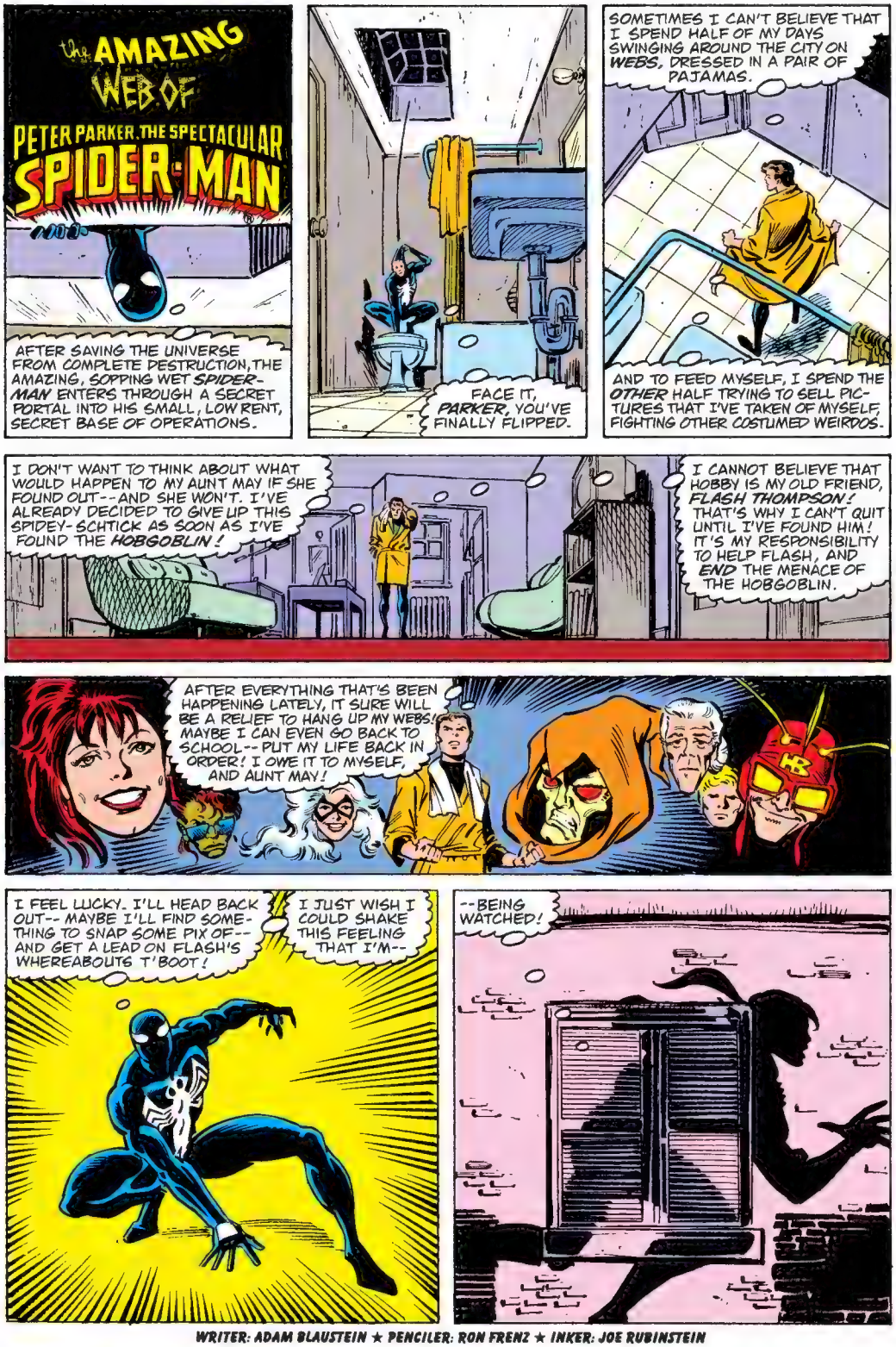
ULP!
RRRIPP!
YA WANNA PLAY GAMES, HUH? OKAY!
ME, I ALWAYS LIKED PLAYIN' WITH TOPS!
OHH, NOOOOO!
SPAK!
KRAK!
GANGWAAAYYYY!
SKREKRUNGULKRESH
KRAKADOOM!
URGH... CAN'T STAND... CAN'T EVEN SEE STRAIGHT...
LOOKS LIKE... THIS IS IT... IT'S FINALLY...
ZZAT!

...WHUT...?
...WHOZZAT...?
THANK HEAVENS WE WERE IN TIME!
I--I'M NOT DEAD... I THINK...
SORRY, SON. YOU SEE, WE WERE ON THE TRAIL OF OUR OLD FOE, THE PUPPET MASTER, AND BEN HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO FIND HIM FIRST.
P-PUPPET MASTER...?
YEAH, THE PUPPET MASTER WANTED TO GET RID OF THE BIG LUMMOX, SO HE TOOK OVER HIS MIND AND SENT HIM AFTER SOMEONE HE'D NEVER CATCH-- YOU!
IT REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
WELL, SORRY, KID! NO HARD FEELINGS, HUH?
WHAT...?
HEY, YOU! YEAH, YOU!
THAT YOUR CUBE IN THE MIDDLE OF MY RESTAURANT?! WHAT ABOUT THAT DAMAGE?! YOU GONNA PAY FOR THAT?! HAH?
THE END

Marvel Age Annual #2 (1986) cover
by Ron Frenz & Joe Sinnott

Marvel Age Annual #2 (1986) retro-homage back cover
by Richard Howell & Al Milgrom

Marvel Age Annual #2 (1986) teased upcoming storylines involving the Hobgoblin and Black Cat in this one-page feature.


the AMAZING WEB OF
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN
AFTER SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM COMPLETE DESTRUCTION, THE AMAZING, SOPPING WET SPIDER-MAN ENTERS THROUGH A SECRET PORTAL INTO HIS SMALL, LOW RENT, SECRET BASE OF OPERATIONS.
FACE IT, PARKER, YOU'VE FINALLY FLIPPED.
SOMETIMES I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I SPEND HALF OF MY DAYS SWINGING AROUND THE CITY ON WEBS, DRESSED IN A PAIR OF PAJAMAS.
AND TO FEED MYSELF, I SPEND THE OTHER HALF TRYING TO SELL PICTURES THAT I'VE TAKEN OF MYSELF, FIGHTING OTHER COSTUMED WEIRDOS.
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO MY AUNT MAY IF SHE FOUND OUT--AND SHE WON'T. I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO GIVE UP THIS SPIDEY-SCHTICK AS SOON AS I'VE FOUND THE HOBGOBLIN!
I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT HOBBY IS MY OLD FRIEND, FLASH THOMPSON! THAT'S WHY I CAN'T QUIT UNTIL I'VE FOUND HIM! IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP FLASH, AND END THE MENACE OF THE HOBGOBLIN.
AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING LATELY, IT SURE WILL BE A RELIEF TO HANG UP MY WEBS! MAYBE I CAN EVEN GO BACK TO SCHOOL--PUT MY LIFE BACK IN ORDER! I OWE IT TO MYSELF, AND AUNT MAY!
I FEEL LUCKY. I'LL HEAD BACK OUT-- MAYBE I'LL FIND SOMETHING TO SNAP SOME PIX OF-- AND GET A LEAD ON FLASH'S WHEREABOUTS T'BOOT!
I JUST WISH I COULD SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT I'M--
--BEING WATCHED!

WRITER: ADAM BLAUSTEIN ★ PENCILER: RON FRENZ ★ INKER: JOE RUBINSTEIN

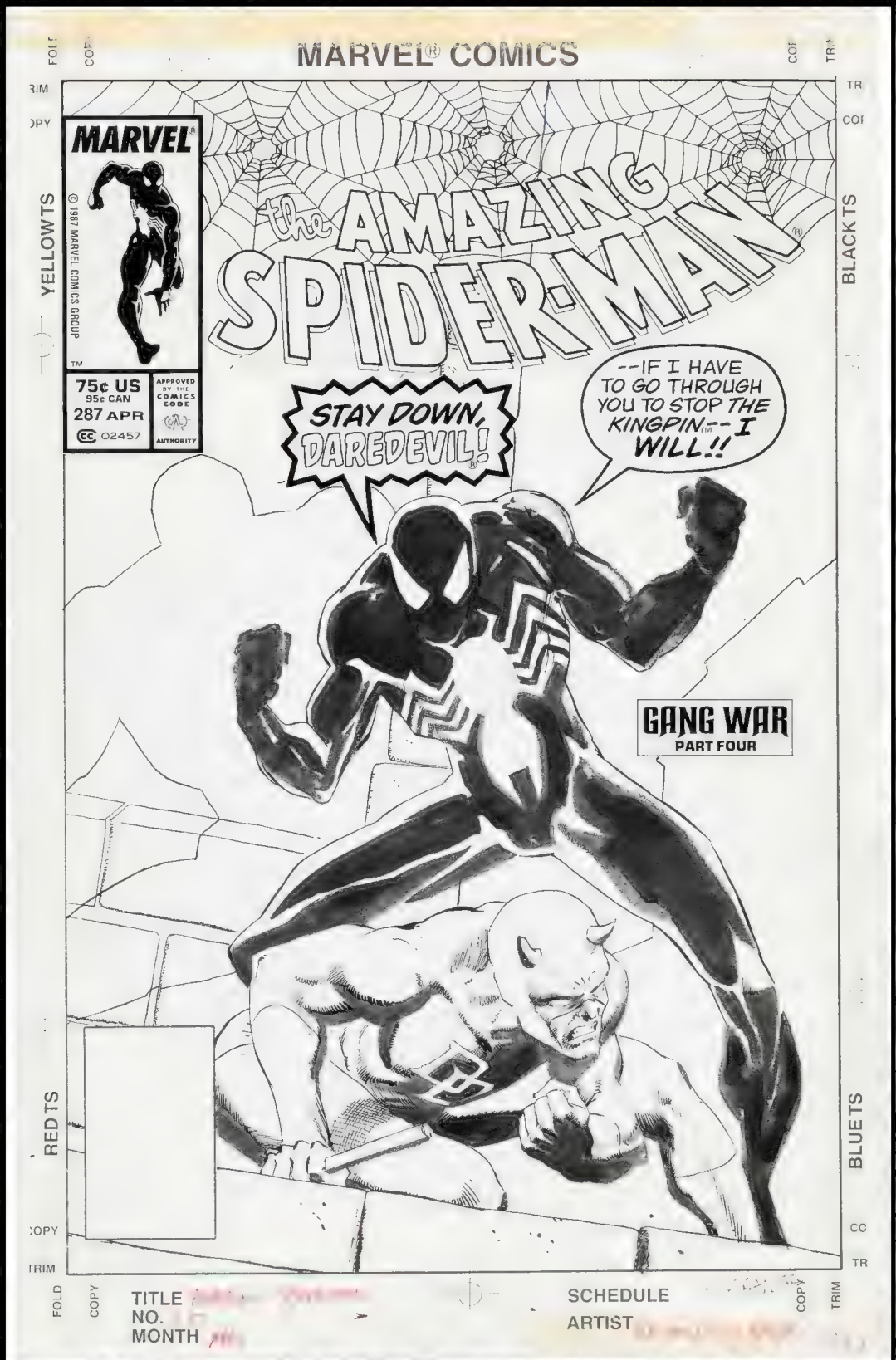
The Amazing Spider-Man #284 unused page 21 original art
by Ron Frenz, Brett Breeding & Josef Rubinstein

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The Amazing Spider-Man #285 cover original art
by Mike Zeck & Bob McLeod

Courtesy Charles Costas

The Amazing Spider-Man #287 cover original art
by Bob Hall & Kyle Baker

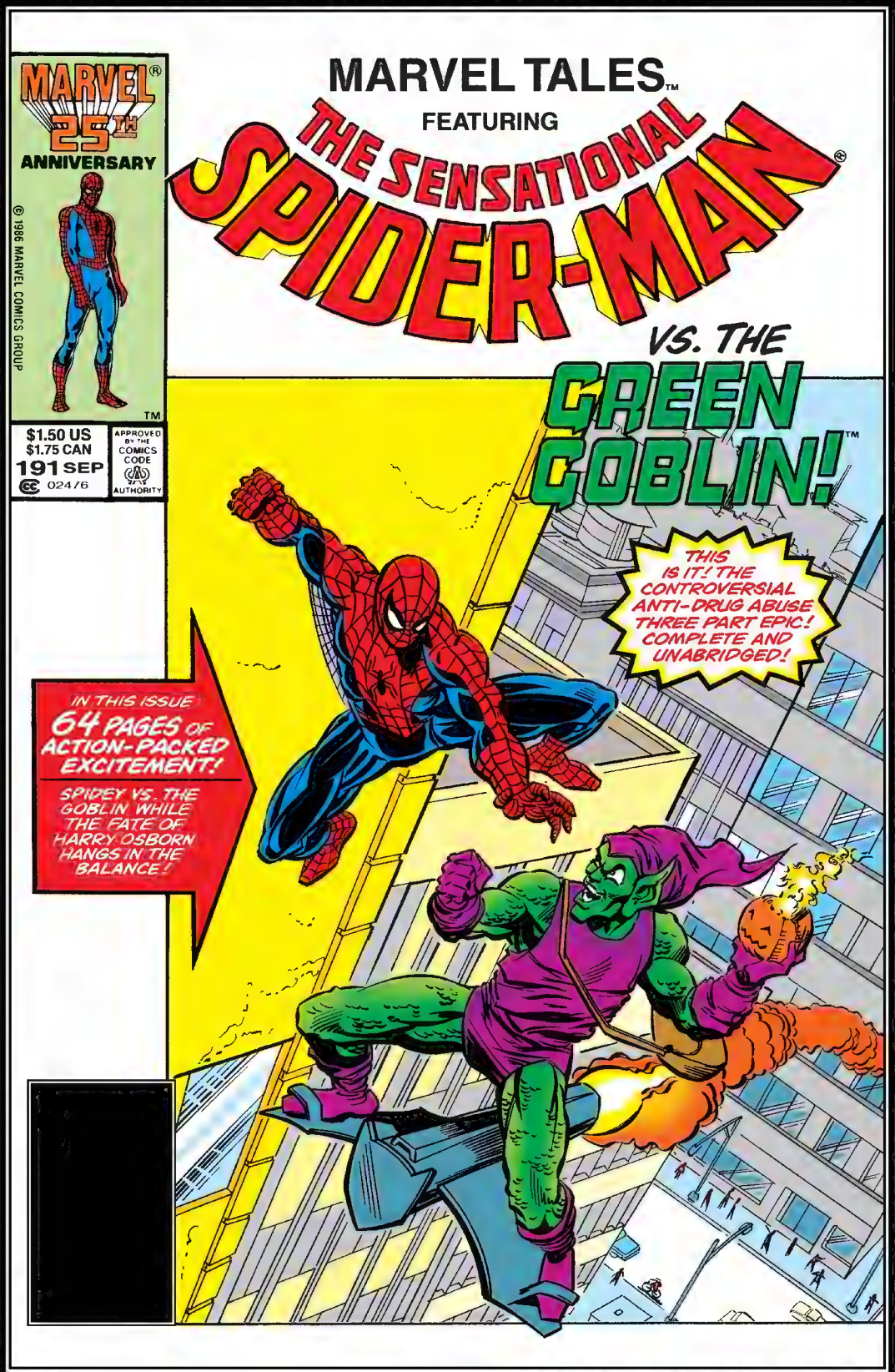


Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Marvel Tales #190 (August 1986) concluded the series' sequential reprints of *The Amazing Spider-Man*. Going forward, it focused on key arcs, hot characters and creative teams.

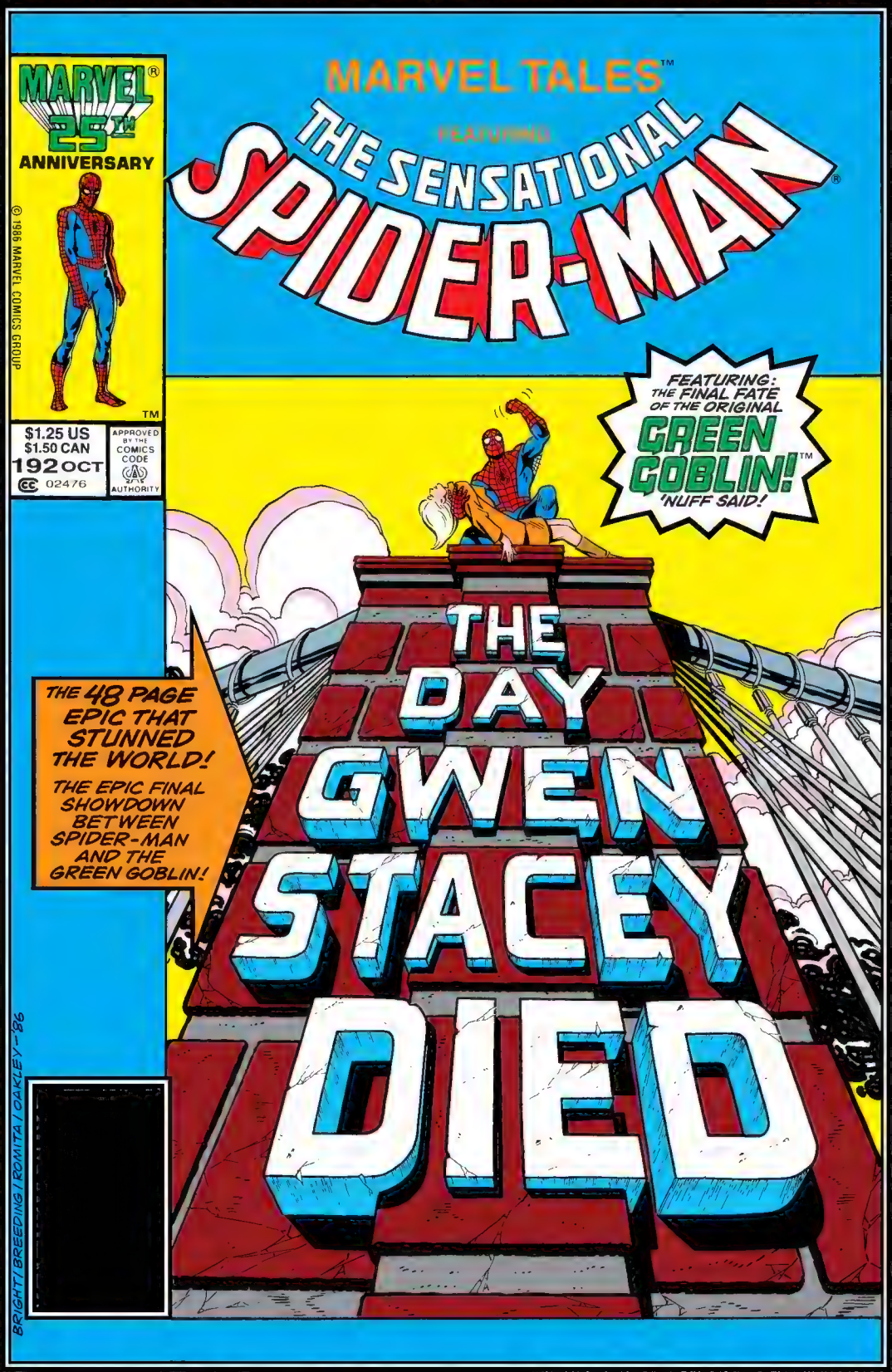
Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #50

Marvel Tales #191 (September 1986) reprinted the famous 1971 drug abuse storyline that bucked the Comics Code | Cover by Mark Bright & Brett Breeding



Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #96-98

Marvel Tales #192 (October 1986) reprinted the 1973 death of Gwen Stacy and the Green Goblin storyline | Cover by Mark Bright, Brett Breeding, John Romita & Bill Oakley

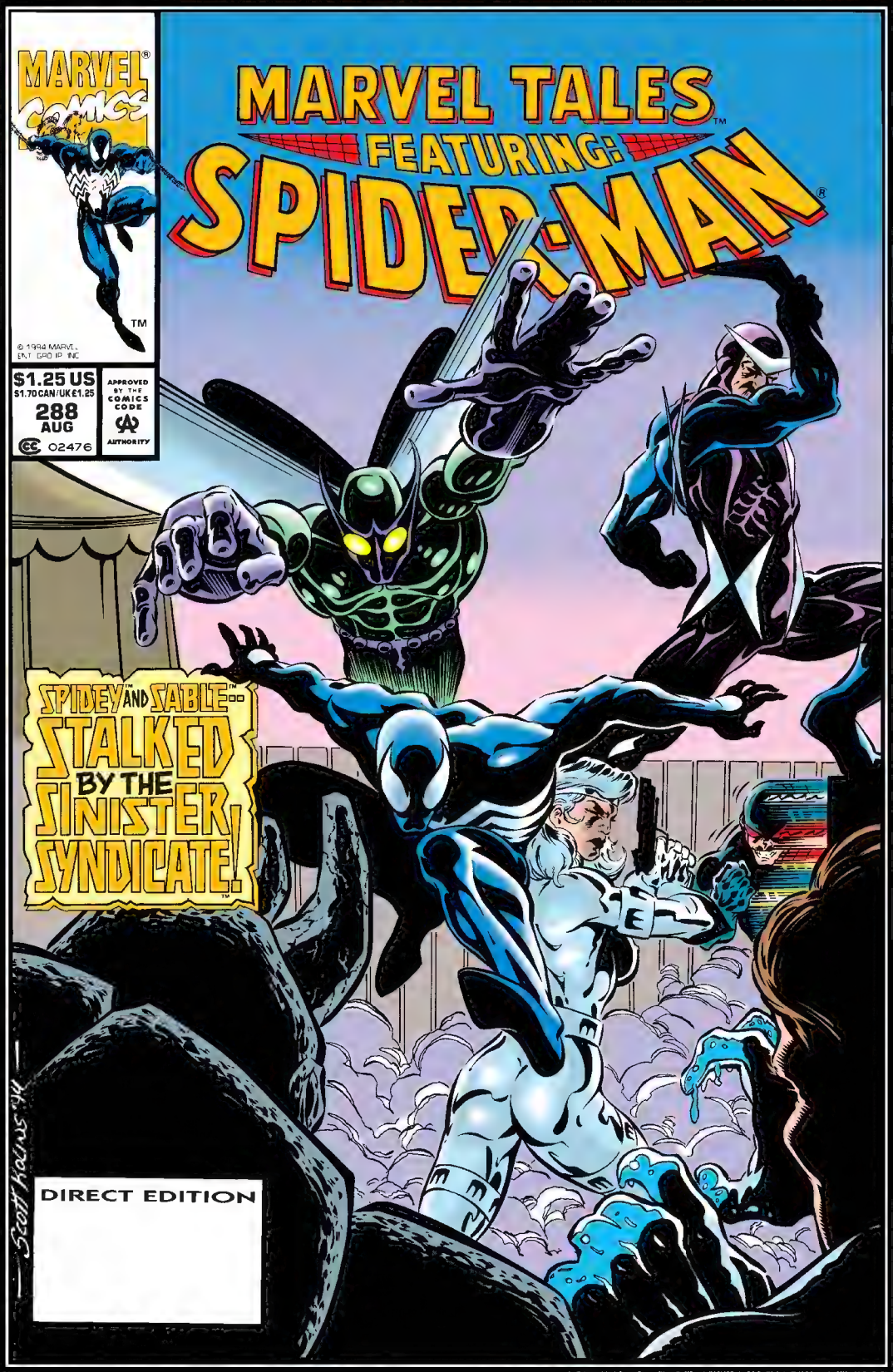


Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #121-122

Marvel Tales #287 (July 1994) cover
by Tom Lyle

Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #279

Marvel Tales #288 (August 1994) cover
by Scott Kolins

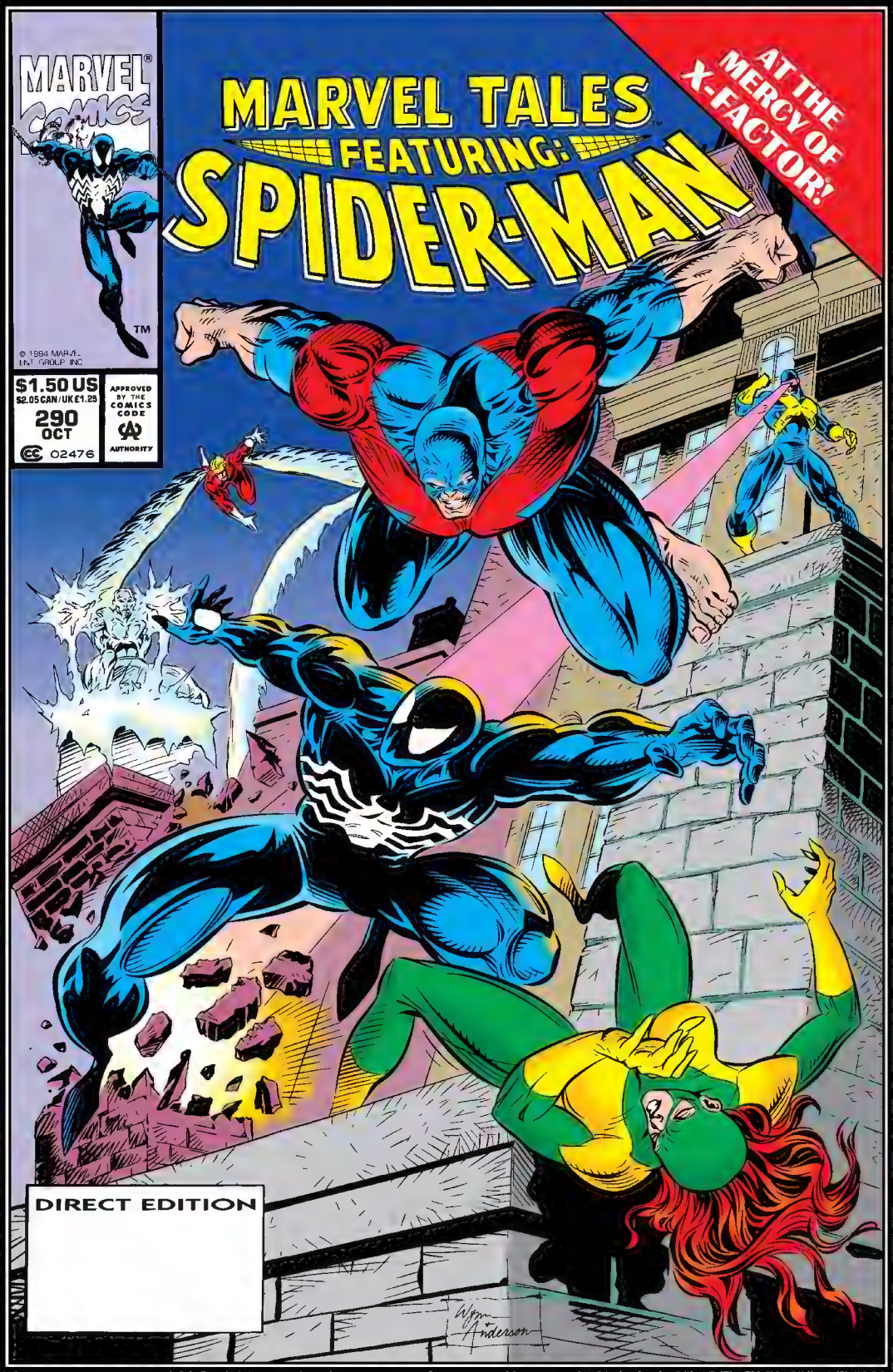


Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #280

Marvel Tales #289 (September 1994) cover
by Scott Kolins & Jon Holdredge

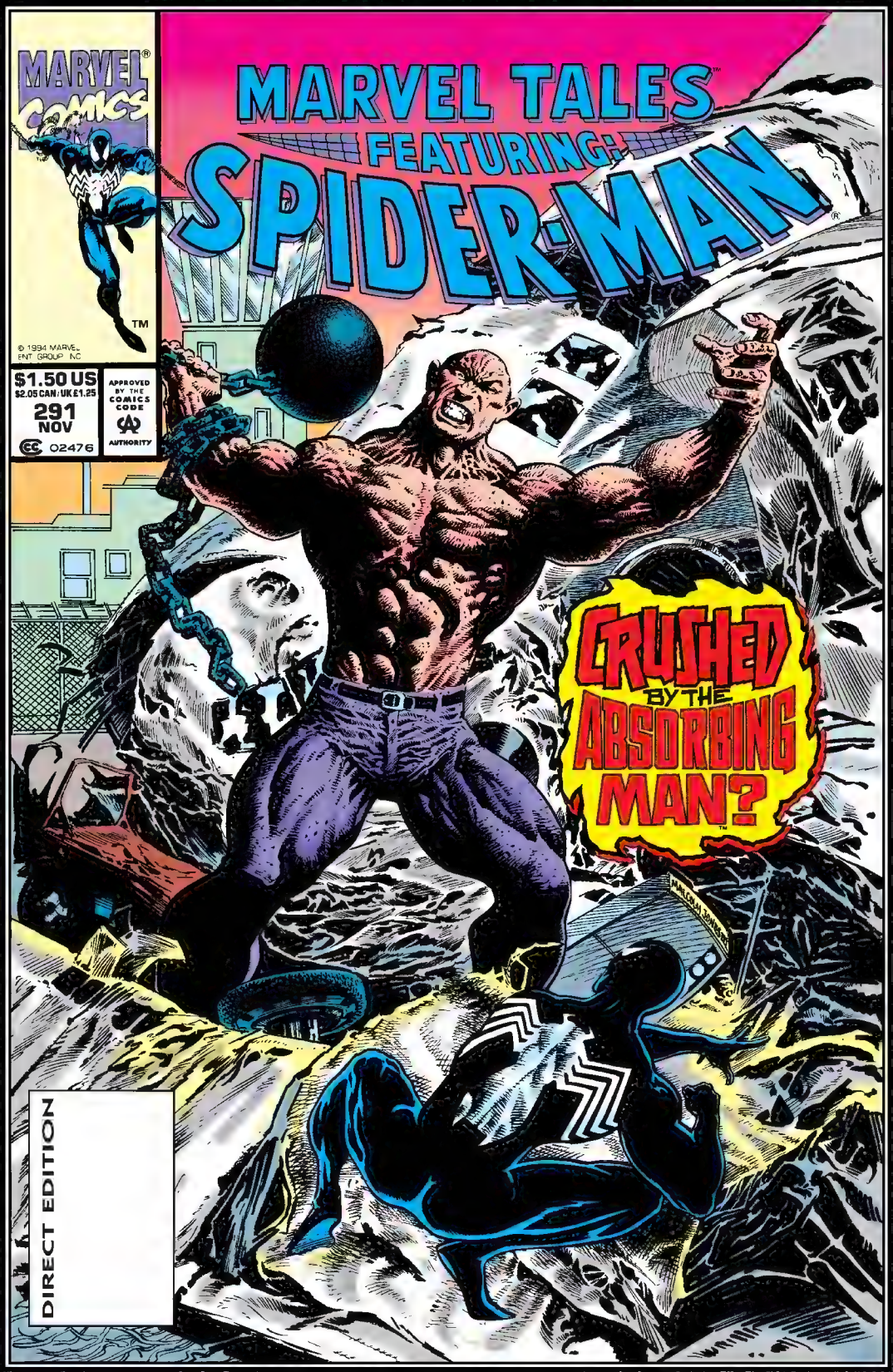
Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #281

Marvel Tales #290 (October 1994) cover
by M.C. Wyman & Bill Anderson



Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #282

Marvel Tales #291 (November 1994) ended the Spidey reprint series' 30-year run
Cover by Malcolm Jones III



Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #283

BIOGRAPHIES

TOM DEFALCO

Writer/editor Tom DeFalco broke into the comic book industry in 1972 at Archie Comics. After serving in a staff position where he inaugurated the highly successful line of Archie digests, he would later begin writing for the Archie line. By the late '70s, he also had a stint on *Superman Family* and stories in *Marvel Two-In-One* and *Avengers*. He joined with iconic Marvel artist Steve Ditko on *Machine Man* in 1980 and launched Marvel's first direct-market exclusive title, *Dazzler*.

By 1981, he had begun to work solely for Marvel, returning to *Marvel Two-In-One* for a 13-issue run. Soon after, DeFalco transitioned to editing, with a stable including the Spider-Man family of titles, *Micronauts*, *Ghost Rider*, *G.I. Joe* and *Marvel Super-Heroes Secret Wars*. In addition to his editorial role, he still wrote a handful of titles, most notably *Amazing Spider-Man* and the 1984 *Machine Man* limited series illustrated by Barry Windsor-Smith and Herb Trimpe. In 1987, DeFalco began a celebrated run on *Thor* with artist Ron Frenz. Soon after that, he was named Marvel's editor-in-chief. A need to make up for a budget shortfall at the beginning of his EIC tenure led DeFalco to launch a line of deluxe hardcover reprints—the *Marvel Masterworks*. Under his guidance, creative freedom at Marvel expanded, as did the line of titles, and the company marked its highest-selling titles of all time, including Claremont and Lee's *X-Men*, McFarlane's *Spider-Man* and Liefeld's *X-Force*. All the while, DeFalco continued writing *Thor*, where he introduced the New Warriors and Thunderstrike.

After his tenure as editor-in-chief ended, he kept on writing for Marvel, where he was heavily involved in the Spider-Man "Maximum Carnage" and "Clone Saga" storylines. In 1998, DeFalco and Frenz teamed on an issue of *What If?* for a pivotal character debut. They introduced Mayday Parker, A.K.A. Spider-Girl, a heroine that proved to be so popular that a whole universe was built around her and the adventures of her peers. The MC2 Universe was guided and developed by DeFalco, with *Spider-Girl* leading the pack in popularity, withstanding commercial pressures and notching 100 issues thanks to a legion of loyal fans. Since his work on *Spider-Girl* wrapped up in 2010, DeFalco has returned for a stint on Archie's flagship title, written *Superboy* for DC and kept busy with various freelance projects.

CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

Christopher Priest, working under his birth name of James Owsley, broke in at Marvel as an intern and then an editor in the early '80s, working on *Crazy Magazine* and the Conan titles. He scripted the 1983 *Falcon* miniseries, was the ongoing writer for *Power Man and Iron Fist* and would pick up the writing reins on *Conan the Barbarian* for a run that renewed the title and stretched through the end of the decade. Other writing credits of this era included *The Further Adventures of Indiana Jones*, *Daredevil*, *Moon Knight* and "Gang War" in *The Amazing Spider-Man*. In 1987, Priest collaborated with artist Paul Ryan on the Thor graphic novel *I, Whom the Gods Would Destroy*. During a period with DC, he wrote a Green Lantern serial in *Action Comics Weekly*, a twelve-issue run of *Unknown Soldier* and long runs of *Justice League Task Force* and *Steel*. In 1993, Priest helped found the influential Milestone Media imprint and later launched the ongoing series *The Ray*, while in 1997, he joined up with Valiant to co-create the cult hit *Quantum & Woody*. Priest returned to Marvel in 1998 with *Ka-Zar*, but it was his Marvel Knights series *Black Panther* that would earn the highest acclaim and introduce concepts and characters that have defined Wakanda ever since. Other highlights from his second tenure with Marvel included *Captain America & the Falcon* and *Deadpool*. In 2015, after a period away from comics during which he focused on his Baptist ministry, Priest returned to comics writing and shortly after began a fifty-issue run on DC's *Deathstroke*. More recently, he has steered the iconic horror franchise Vampirella at Dynamite.

RON FRENZ

Few can match Ron Frenz when it comes to consistency and longevity as an artist. He notched accomplished runs on the field's two most revered and influential characters, Spider-Man and Superman, and carried each through controversial new costume designs. When the 22-year-old broke into the industry, he began as co-penciler of *Ka-Zar the Savage*, and then *Star Wars*. Proving himself on those books, Frenz succeeded John Romita Jr. on *Amazing Spider-Man*, his artwork channeling Steve Ditko's original web-slinger. Next, he joined Tom DeFalco on a six-year-long run on *Thor* with a new look and identity for Marvel's Thunder God. Their efforts led to *Thunderstrike*, a spin-off title featuring Eric Masterson, and the creation of the New Warriors. After an influential run on DC's *Superman*, Frenz returned to Marvel to team with DeFalco on the launch of the MC2 Universe, home of Spider-Girl, the fan-favorite Marvel heroine, for which he drew dozens of issues right up to her final miniseries, *Spectacular Spider-Girl*. In 2001, Frenz joined Kurt Busiek and Erik Larsen on their revival of *The Defenders*, and was part of the jam unit that drew the Lee/Kirby homage *Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Comics Magazine*. Frenz lent his talents to the 2013 IDW revival of *G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero* with series originator Larry Hama and continues to work on projects with his longtime collaborator Tom DeFalco.

ALAN KUPPERBERG

Alan Kupperberg's experience with all facets of writing, art, advertising and design helped make him a "jack of all trades" in comics, with credits as a writer, penciler, inker and letterer. He began his career in the early 1970s in DC Comics' production department and Neal Adams and Dick Giordano's Continuity Associates studio. Kupperberg's first art credit was a single-page story in *Young Romance* #183 (June 1972). In 1974, he moved to Atlas/Seaboard where he served as a letterer, colorist, editor and production manager. After Atlas/Seaboard's demise, Kupperberg started working at Marvel, including penciling an adaptation of Robert Bloch's "The Living Dead" in *Vampire Tales* #5. He was a frequent contributor to *Crazy Magazine*, which often featured his scripts for the "Obnoxio the Clown Fun Pages." Clowns seemed to be a preoccupation for Kupperberg, as he would illustrate Frenchy the Evil Clown in *National Lampoon*, and would write, draw and letter the 1983 *Obnoxio vs. the X-Men* one-shot. Kupperberg racked up an impressive amount of fill-in and pinch-hit jobs on Marvel titles like *Captain America*, *Defenders*, *Doctor Strange* and *Avengers*, plus short runs on

Amazing Spider-Man, *Marvel Two-In-One*, *Thor* and *Spitfire and the Troubleshooters*. He also drew several issues of *What If?* and the four-issue miniseries *Iceman*, and is perhaps best known for long runs on *Invaders* and DC's *Blue Devil*. Kupperberg also served as illustrator of the syndicated comic strips *Hulk*, *Howard the Duck*, and *Little Orphan Annie*. Kupperberg passed away in 2015.

MARK BEACHUM

New York City-born artist Mark Beachum has steadfastly charted a path in comics that is all his own. His earliest work in the medium was seen in DC's *New Talent Showcase* and on a Huntress backup strip in *Wonder Woman*. In 1985, he began work with Marvel, penciling *The Spectacular Spider-Man Annual* #5-6, which pitted Spider-Man against Ace, a character Beachum modeled after himself, and *The Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #20, featuring the Iron Man of 2020. Other credits in his career in comics include issues of *Moon Knight*, *Mark Hazzard: Merc* and DC's *Outsiders*, a prolific number of inking credits at both major and indie publishers, and work with Neal Adams' Continuity Studios. In the early '90s, he made a decisive turn away from mainstream comics and expanded his artistic range to include painted art.

SHOLLY FISCH

Shalom "Sholly" Fisch broke into comics in the late '80s at Marvel, contributing stories to *Marvel Comics Presents*, *What The--?!* and various other titles. He has earned renown for his long tenure at DC writing young reader fare in titles as wide-ranging as *Looney Tunes*, *Scooby Doo*, *Super Friends* and a variety of all-ages stories featuring DC's super heroes. Fisch's writing efforts are balanced with a career in developmental psychology and educational television production.

JAMES FRY

A native of Brooklyn, New York, James Fry studied English literature at Dartmouth, after which he pursued a career as a freelance artist. He drew various stories for Marvel in the mid-'80s, including an issue of *The Amazing Spider-Man* and the cartoon adaptation *Inhumanoids*. Fry moved to DC where he took on *Star Trek*, penciling the movie adaptation of *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* and the first eleven issues of DC's second ongoing *Star Trek* series. Returning to Marvel, Fry penciled a Werewolf by Night serial in *Marvel Comics Presents* and the limited series *Slapstick* and *Nomad* and had a turn as ongoing artist of *Marc Spector: Moon Knight*. In the late '90s, Fry began working with Archie Comics, where he became a regular artist on *Sonic the Hedgehog*. He has also applied his creative talents to production art for TV, film and animation.

ERIK LARSEN

Born in 1962 in Minneapolis, MN, Erik Larsen spent his youth traveling across the country as his English-professor father moved from job to job. Larsen's father had been a collector of comics dating back to the 1940s, and Erik was able to read the entirety of his collection from Golden Age super heroes to EC horror. This ignited not only a love of the medium, but a historic perspective of comics and the medium's creators. Larsen spent much of his boyhood working on his own character designs and collaborating with other young artists. One of his creations, the super hero Dragon, featured heavily in his adolescent efforts, and first saw print in the early '80s titles *Graphic Fantasy* and *Megaton*. Larsen's early professional work was published at the indie publishers AC and Eclipse, the latter in a run of Mark Evanier's *New DNAgents*. After being repeatedly turned down by Jim Shooter at Marvel, Larsen approached him at a comic convention, showed him his published work, and was signed on to draw a story that would eventually be published as *Thor* #385. The core of his early mainstream work was on DC's *Outsiders* and *Doom Patrol*. In 1989, he drew *Punisher* #21-25, an Excalibur serial in *Marvel Comics Presents* and took on the prized position as the artist of *The Amazing Spider-Man*. After a two-year run, he jumped to the adjectiveless *Spider-Man* title, this time writing in addition to drawing. As Larsen's popularity exploded, in 1992, he joined with six of the industry's top creators to form Image Comics. Image would become home to the Savage Dragon, a character that would become a bedrock institution for the publishing house. Larsen's output at Image demanded all his focus until the end of the '90s. By 1998, he began to add writing jobs on *Aquaman*, *Nova*, *Wolverine* and *The Defenders*. In 2004, he served as publisher for Image Comics for a four-year stint. Today, he continues to write and draw *Savage Dragon*, extending his marathon run as he steadily approaches the 300-issue mark.

RICK LEONARDI

As soon as Rick Leonardi graduated from Dartmouth College in 1979, he sent Marvel and DC a self-written and -drawn comic book that spoke to his artistic potential. Marvel wrote back, encouraging him to take a job with them. In his first years in comics, Leonardi eased himself into the business with a handful of stories in *Thor* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. After proving himself, he landed a pair of higher-profile gigs with writer Bill Mantlo on the 1982 miniseries *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* and *Cloak and Dagger*. After penciling issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man*—and being a part of the development of Spider-Man's new black costume with Mike Zeck—Leonardi reunited with Mantlo to launch an ongoing *Cloak and Dagger* series in 1985. He followed that up with Marvel's top-selling X-titles, drawing a Colossus serial in *Marvel Comics Presents* and several issues of *The Uncanny X-Men* and *The New Mutants*. In 1992, Leonardi and Peter David created Miguel O'Hara in *Spider-Man 2099*, a series Leonardi would draw for most of the first 25 issues of its run. In the late '90s, Leonardi drew the five-issue series *Painkiller Jane* for Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti's Event Comics, and in the 2000s, he would head to DC for stints with *Batgirl*, *Vigilante* and *Nightwing*. A longtime fan of Batman, Leonardi's most recent project is the ongoing series *Batman Beyond*.

FRED SCHILLER

Fred Schiller established himself as a writer of comics in the 1980s with credits at indie publishers like Eclipse, where he contributed a Kid Miracleman story to *Miracleman: Apocrypha*, and Now, where he scripted a long run on the title *Rust*. He also wrote a pair of issues for Valiant's *Rai*. For Marvel, he plotted *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #20 and wrote the first eight issues of the 1996 X-Men "remake" title *Professor Xavier and the X-Men*.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY PRESENTS THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC BOOKS, PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED FROM THE HIGHEST-QUALITY SOURCES AND WITH THE MOST DILIGENT ARCHIVAL METHODS.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within comics' four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics.

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

In the 1950s, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction, outer-space adventure, romance, war, Western gunfighters, jungle heroines and, of course, horror and crime, which would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry. The Atlas Era had it all!

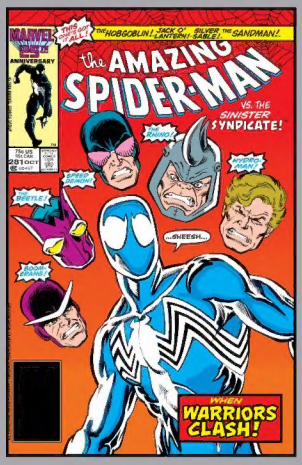
ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics! Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-27
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-3
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-25
THE AVENGERS WEST COAST VOL. 1
THE BLACK PANTHER VOLS. 1-3
BROTHER VOODOO VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-17
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-6
THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-19
DAZZLER VOLS. 1-4
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-9
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-11
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-27
GHOST RIDER VOLS. 1-7
HOWARD THE DUCK VOLS. 1-2
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-19
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-18
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-4
KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
THE MAN-THING VOLS. 1-2
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-8
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-8
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-24
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
NOT BRAND ECHH VOL. 1
OMEGA THE UNKNOWN VOL. 1
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-8
SPIDER-WOMAN VOLS. 1-4
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-8
THE TOMB OF DRACULA VOLS. 1-5
THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH VOL. 1
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT VOLS. 1-3
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-17

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
25TH ANNIVERSARY
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN?
FACE OFF BETWEEN THE JOE FIXIT AND SILVER SABLE!
ACTION! INTRIGUE! SUSPENSE!

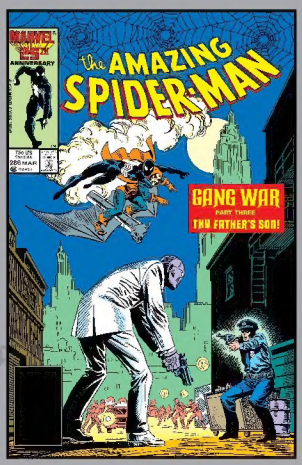

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
THE HOBGOBLIN! JACK O' LANTERN! SILVER SABLE! THE SANDMAN!
vs. THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!
...SHEESH...
MARVEL WARRIORS CLASH!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE ABSORBING MAN AND TITANIA vs:
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
...WITH FOES LIKE THESE...!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
THE BATTLE TO BECOME THE NEW KINGPIN OF CRIME BEGINS!
GANG WAR PART ONE

MARVEL 25TH
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
GANG WAR PART TWO
THE PUNISHER GETS INVOLVED!


MARVEL COMICS GROUP
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
GANG WAR PART THREE
THY FATHER'S SOD!

MARVEL
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAY DOWN, DAREDEVIL!
...IF I HAVE TO GO THROUGH YOU TO STOP THE KINGPIN!... I WILL!!
GANG WAR PART FOUR

MARVEL
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
GANG WAR
PART FIVE
THE CONCLUSION
'THE WAR ENDS!'

MARVEL